

Sermon Outline 2 – Grace Communion Church Cambridgeshire

SERMON OUTLINE : SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Basic purpose: *To expound Isaiah 9:1-7 and 8:18*

Possible Introductions:

- Play audio/video rendition of Handel's aria.
- What is the connection between Dublin and Isaiah 9:6? Handel's Messiah – refer to when first performed, etc.
- Any anecdote about the Handel's Messiah.
- Or talk about how all around us today is bad news and how we need some good news and lead into the idea that similar situation existed at time of Isaiah.
- Or discuss disconnectedness and how we are connected to a very important event.

SPS To show how we are part of the Jesus story.

Need idea

- We need to understand our role in this wonderful event.

Body thoughts and ideas

- Note the concept of “gloom” in verse 1. There was no good news at the time of this prophecy. A bit like today? As in introduction idea.
- V2 – our people today are like those walking in darkness and they need to see a great light. Could reference Zechariah's song in Luke 1:79 or Matt 4:15 when Jesus begins to preach.
- Threads of this idea also exist in Isaiah 60 and the hope of the world – v1, v5 (joy), V7 (shepherds), v6 (gold, incense, etc) – hints of the story.
- But at Isaiah's time how was the light to shine? Through Isaiah and the other believers – 8:18 – they were to be “signs and symbols” of the Almighty. They were part of the story.
- What do you symbolize in your life? See 2 Cor 4:6 and Eph 5:8 – we are signs and symbols of the light that lives in us. Through us the gloom is lifted today. We too are part of the continuing story of the life of Christ.
- Go through Isaiah 9:3-5 linking it in to the Jesus story.
- Note to “us” a child is born
- Isaiah 9:6. Note Jesus the child called the Mighty God – He is the Almighty of whom we are signs and symbols
- A Trinitarian thought away ahead of early church councils! Wonderful counselor = Holy Spirit; Mighty God = the Godhead; Everlasting Father = God the Father; Prince of Peace = Jesus.
- V7 – still future. But kingdom begun in us...
- V8 – the zeal made the first coming happen and will also make the second coming happen.
- In the meantime what are we to do? To be the signs and the symbols. We proclaim the story through our lives. The zeal makes it happen.

Conclusion idea

There are so many signs and symbols of this season of the year, but let's remember that we are the real signs and symbols of the child in the manger not just now but throughout the whole year.