

*“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen in whom my soul delights...he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice” (Isaiah 42:1-2).*

As many of you may know, I am hearing impaired. For over a decade now I have had no ability to hear in my left ear. Apparently, there has been a growth in my inner ear that has killed off all nerve endings rendering a certain degree of deafness. Where the growth came from is anyone's guess. Thankfully, through regular MRIs my physician keeps an eye on things. Though I am officially deaf in my left ear, there is still a loud ringing that takes place 24/7. To be fair, I've lived with the ringing for so long now that at times I don't even notice it. Then there are those other times, when the ringing becomes so overwhelming, I find myself in need of a place of blessed silence.

As 2020 gets underway the noise of the world seems to ring louder in our ears with blessed silence nowhere to be found. Whether it be contenders for the Oval Office flooding the streets and airwaves with voices clamoring to be heard over everyone else, or it be those in elected office on both sides of the partisan aisle trying to thwart one another at every turn, this coming year promises to be contentious, abrasive, and down-right divisive.

By contrast, the Beloved Son wields neither sword nor loud voice. No fundraising is needed and no electoral victories are desired. This One whom God has called his Beloved, has not come to seize power but instead

*“to establish justice in the earth... to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.” (Isaiah 42).*

The Beloved Son has come neither to occupy thrones of majesty nor to command the levers of governmental infrastructure. He has come instead to travel dusty roads, trusting in the hospitality of strangers, proclaiming the good news of God's gentle reign of justice. Jesus has no interest in grabbing the reigns of power to drive his message home to victory; He refuses to rule the world by force or by tweet, instead he will persist in healing and feeding the marginalized and the dispossessed. He will persist in tearing down the fear-filled walls that divide; he will persist in unwavering servanthood whereby the lowly are uplifted and the mighty brought down.

Into our toxic world of loud ringing voices, comes the One who will not only declare God's gentle justice but will in word and deed through your hands and mine, make all things new.

Peace and Love,

Pastor Doug