**SUNDAY, 12/12/21**

**SERMON**

**LUKE 3:7-18**

It depends whose hands it is in.

A basketball in my hands is worth about $19

A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about $33 million

A baseball in my hands is worth about $6

A baseball in Mark McGuire's hands is worth $19 million

A tennis racket is useless in my hands

A tennis racket in Pete Sampras' hands is a Wimbledon Championship

It depends whose hands it is in

A rod in my hands might keep away a wild animal.

A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty Red Sea.

A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy

A sling shot in David's hand is a mighty weapon.

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God's hands will feed thousands.

One person living their own way accomplish very little.

One person in God's hands is able to accomplish amazing things

It depends whose hands it is in

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for us to encounter Jesus.

When he saw the crowds who came out to be baptized by him,

          he called them: "A brood of vipers."

Then the people asked him: "What should we do?"

They wanted to do what was right,

          but they didn't know how to go about it.

John gave them the truth, repentance, and hope.

He told them:

          "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none;

          And whoever has food should share with those who are hungry."

John had answers for each of them.

He knew the evil things they had been doing.

And he warned them they needed to change.

The tax collectors were told:

“Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”

The soldiers were instructed:

          "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation,

                    and be satisfied with your wages."

He urged all of the people to change their sinful ways.

He encouraged them to live God's way.

When their lives were in their own hands,

          they discovered many deceitful ways to gain a little more money.  
When they put their lives in God's hands,

          they would discover forgiveness, and peace, and joy.

John proclaimed the good news to all the people,

          and urged them to change their ways.

Leaving his heavenly home,

          Jesus put on human flesh to bring us God's Good News.

It all happened in a moment,

          a most remarkable moment which was like none other.

For through that segment of time a spectacular thing occurred.

God became a human.

While the creatures of earth walked unaware, divinity arrived.

Heaven opened itself and placed the most precious one in a human womb.

God as a fetus.

          Holiness sleeping in a womb.

                    The creator of life being created.

God came near.

          No silk. No ivory. No hype. No party. No hoopla.

He didn't want them.

He simply wanted us to come near,

          and experience his love, forgiveness, and joy.

Jesus told us:

          I am the light of the world.

          I am the way and the truth and the life.

          And He promised:

          I will come back and take you to be with me – forever.

AMEN