

SERMON NOTES

First Sunday after the Epiphany, Year C * January 9, 2022

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Isaiah 43:1-7 * Psalm 29 * Acts 8:14-17 * Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

"Don't Be Afraid" X 93

Isaiah 43:1-3

This is what the LORD says – he who created and formed you:

Don't be afraid.

93 times in the Bible!

Why NOT?

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

26 times in the Bible.

How is he WITH us?

The H_____ S_____ is the P_____ of God.

The B_____ of C_____.

and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

**When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.**

For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Next Week's Lessons

Isaiah 62:1-5 * Psalm 36:5-10 * 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 * John 2:1-11

Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation with your family, Home Group, or a friend

1. When you were a child, what's something you were afraid of? Why? Have you gotten over that fear? How or how not?
2. How have you felt God with you in your fears now that you are older?
3. God promises to be with us when we pass through the waters and that when we pass through a river, the waters will not sweep over us. Tell about a time you were in a scary situation and God got you through it.
4. God uses the difficulties in our lives like fire: to burn away unclean stuff in us and purify us like gold. What is a difficulty in your life that has helped purify you and make you more godly?
5. PRAY:
 - ✦ Thanking God for getting us through our fears.
 - ✦ Thanking God for not wasting the hurts in our lives, but purifying us through them.
 - ✦ For grace to face the difficulties in our lives now, and for eyes to see how God is purifying us through them.
 - ✦ For any needs in your group.