



END OF YEAR
GIVING

Year-End Giving Update

December
Goal
525,000

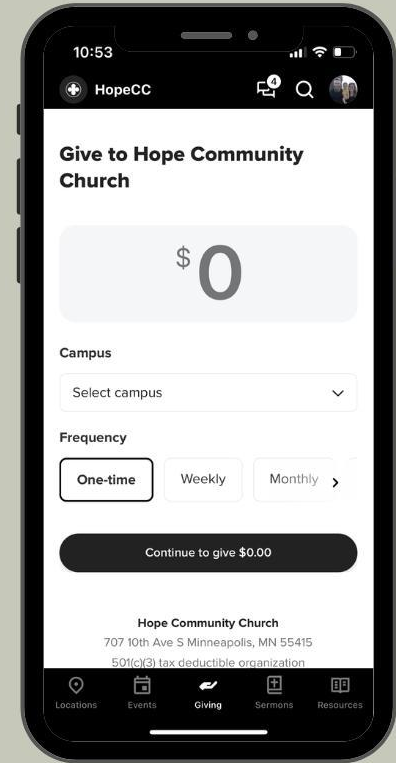
Total Received in
December
\$150,959.03

Amount
Remaining
\$374,040.97

% received
28.75%



GIVING
HOPECC.COM/GIVING
(or in the Hope App)





United Kingdom

Ireland

North Sea

Denmark

Lithuania

Belarus

Poland

London

Netherlands

Berlin

Germany

Prague

Czechia

Paris

Belgium

Slovakia

Ukraine

Vienna

Moldova

France

Austria

Hungary

Romania

Black Sea

Croatia

Serbia

Portugal

Madrid

Barcelona

Italy

Rome

Bulgaria

Istanbul

Turkey

Spain

Tyrrhenian Sea

Greece

Lebanon





**“NO CHRIST IN YOUR SERMON, SIR?
THEN GO HOME, AND NEVER
PREACH AGAIN UNTIL YOU HAVE
SOMETHING WORTH PREACHING.”**

-CHARLES SPURGEON





KOSTEL JINAK



Czech



English



kostel jinak



church differently



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**Revealing the Rescuer
Seeing Jesus in Isaiah**

Isaiah 29:9-14

⁹Be stunned and amazed,
blind yourselves and be sightless;
be drunk, but not from wine,
stagger, but not from beer.

Isaiah 29:9-14

¹⁰The Lord has brought over you a deep sleep:
He has sealed your eyes (the prophets);
he has covered your heads (the seers).

Isaiah 29:9-14

¹¹For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him, “Read this, please,” he will answer, “I can’t; it is sealed.” ¹²Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, “Read this, please,” he will answer, “I don’t know how to read.”

Isaiah 29:9-14

¹³The Lord says:

“These people come near to me with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me
is made up only of rules taught by men.

Isaiah 29:9-14

¹⁴Therefore once more I will astound these people
with wonder upon wonder;
the wisdom of the wise will perish,
the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish.”

Today's Message

How to completely miss the point
[while doing and saying all the right things!]

Isaiah 29:9-14, Matthew 15:1-20

A parable of a mysterious reality

Isaiah 29:9-14

⁹Be stunned and amazed,
blind yourselves and be sightless;
be drunk, but not from wine,
stagger, but not from beer.

The Hiddenness of God

Isaiah 29:9-14

¹⁰The Lord has brought over you a deep sleep:
He has sealed your eyes (the prophets);
he has covered your heads (the seers).



I won't. I can't.

Isaiah 29:9-14

¹¹For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I can't; it is sealed." ¹²Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I don't know how to read."

The double illustration covers those who can but cannot be bothered and those who cannot and do not care. Basic to both is a spirit of unconcern. The one will not exert himself to break the seal and read, nor does the other urge him to do so. Thus self-adopted and Spirit-induced spiritual somnolence is evidenced in indolence (11) and disinterest (12).



THE PROPHECY OF
ISAIAH

An Introduction & Commentary

J. Alec Motyer

~ J. A. Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction & Commentary* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996), 240.

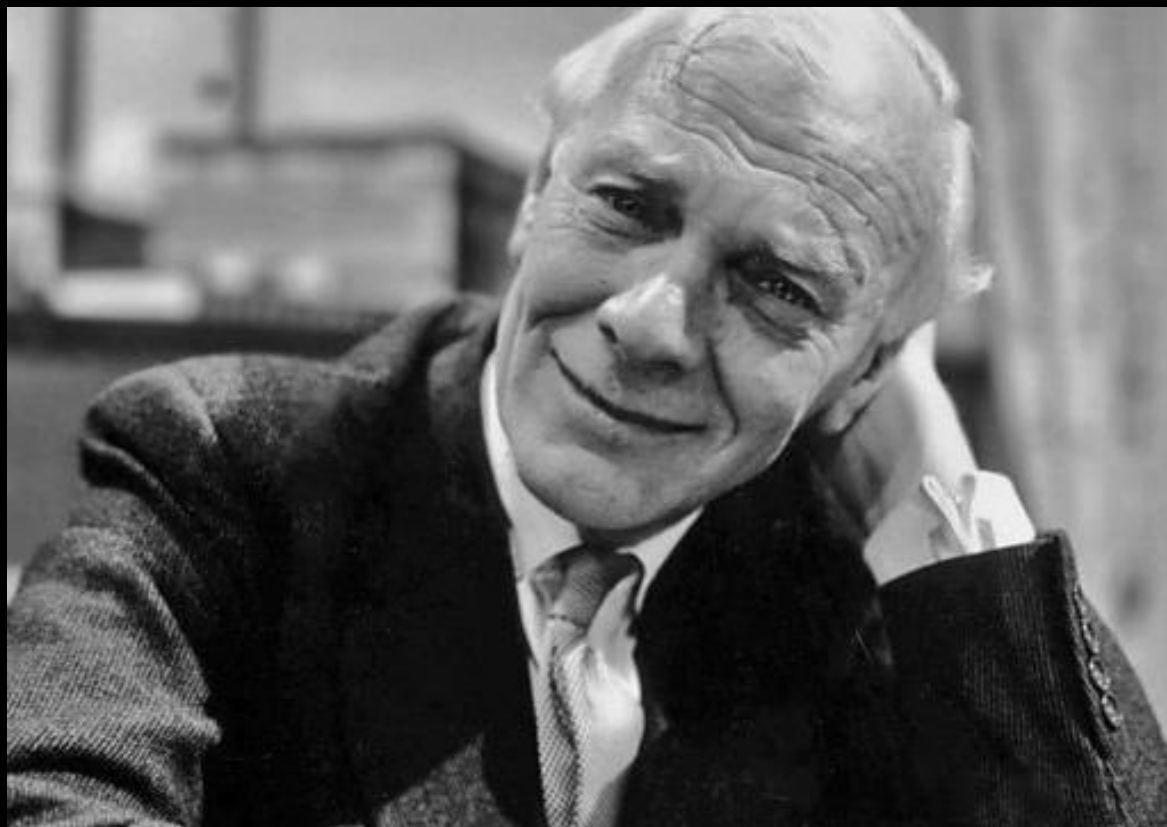
Religion Kills

Isaiah 29:9-14

¹³The Lord says:

“These people come near to me with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me
is made up only of rules taught by men.



“Organized religion kills the living beauty of God.”

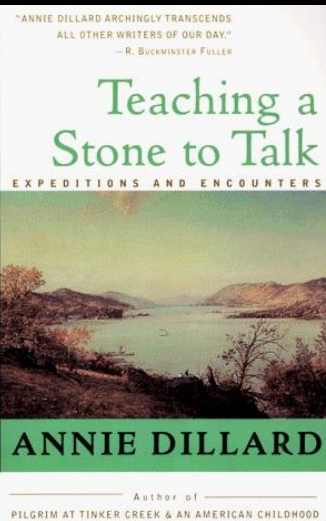
~ Malcom Muggeridge, (1903-1990), English journalist and satirist

God of wonders

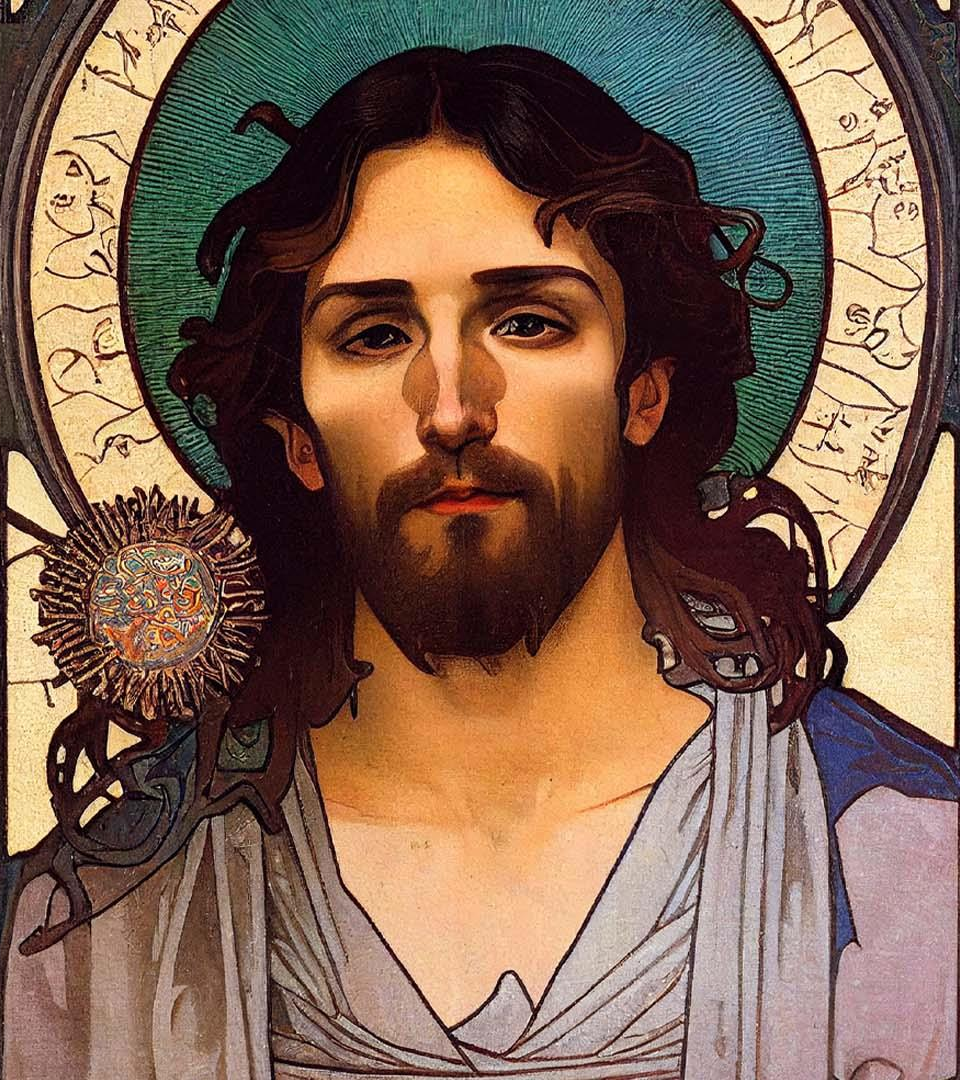
Isaiah 29:9-14

¹⁴Therefore once more I will astound these people
with wonder upon wonder;
the wisdom of the wise will perish,
the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish.”

On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, making up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies hats and straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offence, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return.



~ *Annie Dillard, Teaching a Stone to Talk, p. 40.*



Matthew 15:1-20

¹Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, ²“Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!”

Matthew 15:1-20

³Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother’ and ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ ⁵But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is ‘devoted to God,’ ⁶they are not to ‘honor their father or mother’ with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

Matthew 15:1-20

⁷You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

⁸“ ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

⁹They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ ”

Matthew 15:1-20

¹⁰Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. ¹¹What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.”

Matthew 15:1-20

¹²Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?”

Matthew 15:1-20

¹³He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

¹⁵Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.”

Matthew 15:1-20

¹⁶“Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. ¹⁷“Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil thoughts – murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.”

[The Pharisees] were saying all the right things, doing all the right things. They feared God. But their fear of him – even this interior dimension of worship – was only a doctrine taught by human instruction. It was just an idea, a concept in their minds, a catechetical answer, not a Spirit-imparted awareness transforming their hearts. Beneath the beautiful observance, they were using the worship of God as a mechanism for avoiding God, for controlling God, for setting limits on God... God-evasion can look good... So which do you really prize – tradition or God? You cannot serve two masters. You must choose between authentic worship and pious blasphemy.

~ Raymond C. Ortlund Jr. and R. Kent Hughes, *Isaiah: God Saves Sinners*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005), 163-164.

Gospel Application






Olomouc
Czech Republic

A festive Christmas scene set against a rustic wooden plank background. On the left, a small, lit Christmas tree made of white branches is decorated with warm white lights and white snowflake ornaments. In the foreground, there is a layer of white snow. To the left of the tree are two wrapped gifts: one in red paper with a white ribbon and another in white paper with a red floral pattern and a red ribbon. A gingerbread man cookie stands in the snow next to the gifts. Several lit yellow candles are scattered around the base of the tree and gifts. The top of the image is framed by a branch of a Christmas tree with white snow and warm white lights. The text 'CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS' is written in a large, white, serif font, and 'around the world' is written in a smaller, white, cursive font below it.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

around the world



Tradition was safety;
change was danger.

Mary Doria Russell



Gospel Application

Vánoce jinak

*“Christmas
Differently”*

