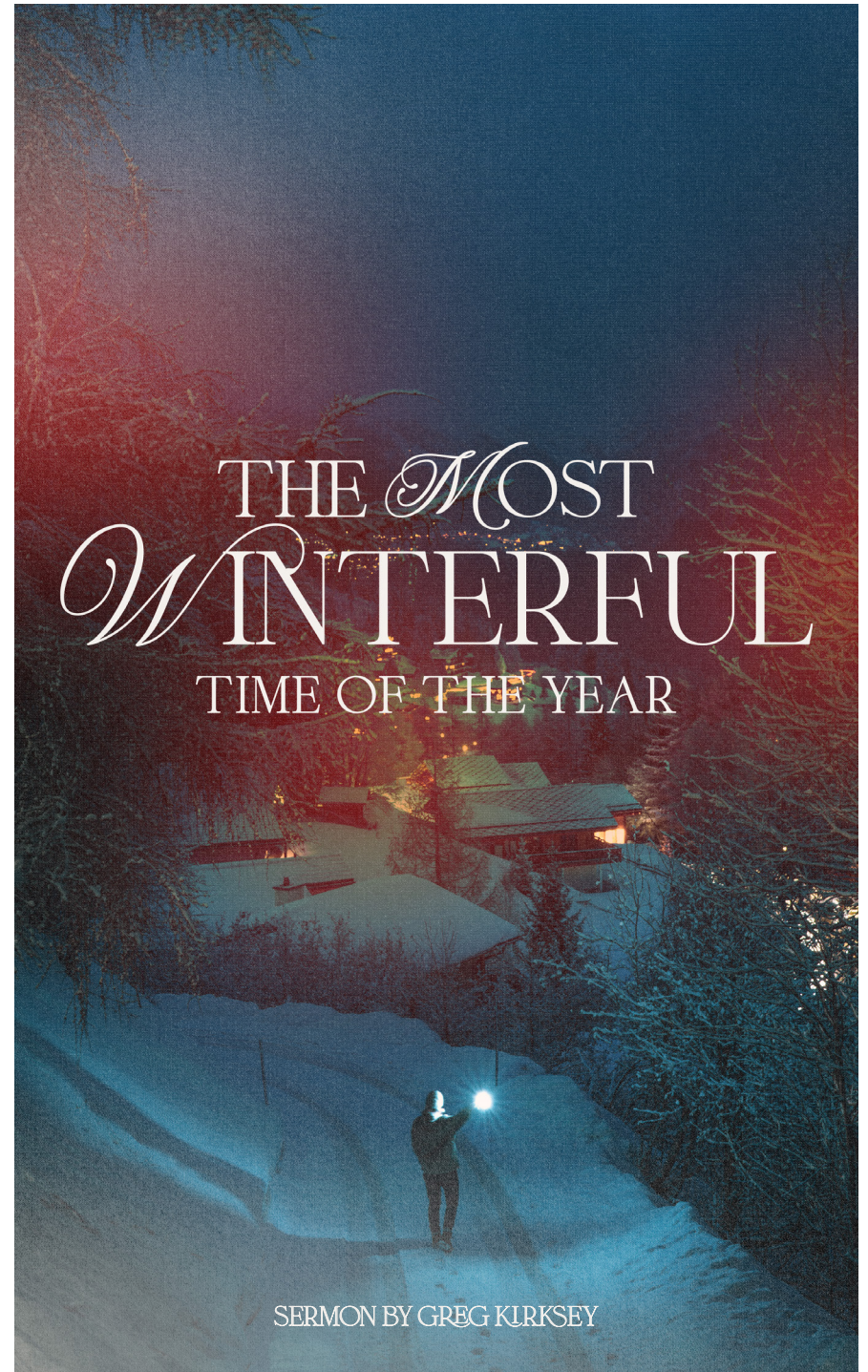


WELCOME
TO ROCK CREEK

**IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME -
THANKS FOR JOINING US!**

**WE WOULD LOVE TO MEET YOU!
STOP AND MEET A PASTOR
TO THE RIGHT OF THE STAGE
AFTER THE SERVICE.**

 **SCAN**
THE CODE
FOR A LIST OF
IMPORTANT
ROCK CREEK LINKS!



THE MOST WINTERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

SERMON BY GREG KIRKSEY

**FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON,
AND A TIME FOR EVERY MATTER UNDER HEAVEN...
ECCLESIASTES 3: 1 (ESV)**

FOCAL PASSAGE: ISAIAH 61: 1-3 (ESV)

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.*

1. CHRISTMASTIME CAN BE A _____.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound...to comfort all who mourn... verse 1,2b

READ: PSALM 88: 3-9

2. CHRISTMASTIME CAN BE A SE _____.

...to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. v. 2

*But I call to you for help Lord; in the morning my prayer meets you.
Psalm 88: 13 (CSB)*

*Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40: 30-31*

Will your wonders be made known in the darkness? v. 12

3. CHRISTMASTIME CAN BE A _____.

...To grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. v. 3

*For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death
2 Corinthians 1: 8-9*

*But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.
He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us.
On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.
2 Corinthians 1: 9b-10*