**The reason it seems justice is far from us.**

**October 3, 2021**

**Isaiah 59:1-2**

**“Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”**

**Psalm 139:7**

**“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?”**

**Job 1:6**

**“One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them.”**

**Romans 5:8**

**“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

**Isaiah 59:3-8**

**“For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken falsely, and your tongue mutters wicked things. No one calls for justice; no one pleads a case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments, they utter lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil. They hatch the eggs of vipers and spin a spider’s web. Whoever eats their eggs will die, and when one is broken, an adder is hatched. Their cobwebs are useless for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands. Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. They pursue evil schemes; acts of violence mark their ways. (The way of peace they do not know;) there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks along them will know peace.”**

**Isaiah 59:1**

**“Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.”**

**Isaiah 59:9-11**

**“So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like people without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.**

**Isaiah 59:9-11 Continued**

**We all growl like bears; we moan mournfully like doves. We look for justice, but find none; for deliverance, but it is far away.”**

**Matthew 13:12**

**“Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”**

**Isaiah 59:12-15a**

**“For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: rebellion and treachery against the Lord, turning our backs on our God, inciting revolt and oppression, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.**

**2 Timothy 3:12**

**“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,”**

**Isaiah 59:15b-18**

**“The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due.”**

**Ephesians 6:13-17**

**“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”**

**Romans 3:24**

**“Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.”**