

## A PLANTING OF THE LORD

*Prophetic word given to Caroline Owens for Christ the Reconciler in 2024*

### **Isaiah 61: 3b-4**

*They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations,  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.*

We as a community are a planting of the Lord. Community members are “oaks” who have decided to put down their roots here: geographically, by specifically committing to the community, as well as spiritually, by committing to live out CTR’s call in their own lives. Trees are not easily moved from the ground in which they have been planted. These brothers and sisters, these ‘oaks of righteousness’ have given up flitting around from ministry to ministry, in order to commit to the ministry of the Lord here. This lends itself to the ministry’s own long-term stability, but it also provides a shady and peaceful place of rest for those who may not feel a long-term call to CTR. There are many who will benefit from CTR’s physical presence as well as its spiritual nurture even if they are not part of the “planting.”

We are to be, according to Ephesians 3: 17-19, rooted and grounded in love with the Father, and with each other:

*“...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*

This increasing rootedness in love makes us increasingly more stable, and thus more able to display the Lord’s glory. Faith will seem easy/ obvious as we are unshakable in love. We will believe him for all things!

Messianic Jews are a special planting among us. Their presence with us as individuals may be seasonal, but we must treat them with special care as we nourish them from our land open-handedly.

We have a weighty, sacrificial call: just because we are “small” in size does not mean the call is small or easy. We commit to live out Christ’s command to live as one, as the Father and Son are one. Our prophetic living of this vision will have a ripple effect on the larger Body of Christ in ways we could ever imagine (Ephesians 3:20). All of our gifts as a community - time, talent, treasure - must sacrificially be committed to our call. Ephesians 4: 12-13 is key:

*“...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.”*

We must be equipped as a unit, with all the gifts present among us. There is a strong dynamic linking the investment and operation of all our gifts together so that we can reach both the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God. We can never be unified, we can never know the Son of God fully, we can never become fully mature unless we are all fully invested as one.