

Living FAITH

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

3rd Sunday of Advent – Year A

“Get The Road Ready”

WE GATHER

God of Love;
As we enter this Advent season,
help keep our advent flames of hope, love,
joy and peace burning bright.
Help us prepare our hearts in readiness for
the coming of a humble peacemaker,
sent to heal and free the world.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen

WE LISTEN

A reading from John (1:6-8, 19-28)

God sent a man named John, who came to tell about the light and to lead all people to have faith. John wasn't that light. He came only to tell about the light. The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and temple helpers to ask John who he was. He told them plainly, "I am not the Messiah." Then when they asked him if he were Elijah, he said, "No, I am not!" And when they asked if he were the Prophet, he also said "No!"

Finally, they said, "Who are you then? We have to give an answer to the ones who sent us. Tell us who you are!"

John answered in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "I am only someone shouting in the desert, 'Get the road ready for the Lord!'"

Some Pharisees had also been sent to John. They asked him, "Why are you baptizing people, if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?"

John told them, "I use water to baptize people. But here with you is someone you don't know. Even though I came first, I am not good enough to untie his sandals."
John said this as he was baptizing east of the Jordan River in Bethany.

For hope:
That advent may be a season of renewed *hope*
for all who have been feeling hopeless.
Lord, hear us.

For love:
That advent may be a reminder to
share the *love* of Jesus to all.
Lord, hear us.

For joy:
That all anxiety and sadness be replaced
with the *joyful* spirit of advent.

For peace:
That communities in conflict use this advent season
to come together in *peace* and harmony.
Lord, hear us.

For our own needs...
Lord, hear us.



WE REFLECT

The last couple of weeks has been all about preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus. Each week the Gospel challenges us to wait patiently but also be ready. It's really hard to do that though... to wait patiently for something as exciting as Christmas morning but to also be ready for when it comes. It's like having your favourite toy or game up on a shelf so you can see it, but you can't play with it until the "time comes". But the thing about waiting patiently is that as the old saying goes: good things come to those who wait. Using Advent to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus means that when Christmas does eventually come around, we will really appreciate the significance of the day. We will truly appreciate the hope, joy, faith, peace and love that Jesus brings into the world.

What will you do this week to prepare for the coming of Jesus?

WE ARE SENT FORTH

Jesus,
Thank you for reminding us that the most important part of Christmas is spreading hope, joy, love and peace.
In the busyness of Christmas,
help us to prepare the way for Your Spirit.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Son of the Living God.

Amen.

***In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Amen***

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you."

- St Teresa of Calcutta

Advent Candle Anne Nygard
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Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version (CEV)

