

SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021  
ADVENT 2  
WHAT'S THE TIME (2) IT'S TIME TO GET READY  
LUKE 3:1-6

### WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

We light our second candle to remind us of John the Baptist who prepared the way for the coming of the Messiah. We prepare to meet with Christ this morning in worship.

### SONG: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Light of the world,  
You stepped down into darkness,  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You,  
Hope of a life spent with You.

*So here I am to worship,  
Here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that You're my God;  
And You're altogether lovely,  
Altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days,  
Oh so highly exalted,  
Glorious in heaven above;  
Humbly You came  
To the earth You created,  
All for love's sake became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross.  
(Repeat)

### OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, light and hope for the world, we come to worship and adore you. We come to open our hearts to you and listen to your Word. We also come to confess our failings, the things we shouldn't have done, and those things which we should have done. Merciful Lord, forgive us as we turn away from those things that have separated us from you and others. In your precious name, Amen.

Jesus always forgave those who came to him in repentance. And he still speaks his Word of hope, "Your sins are forgiven."  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord, we offer not only ourselves in repentance but also our gifts as we bring to you our offertory. Bless now all we have given for the sake of your coming kingdom. Amen.

### INTRO TO THE THEME: HOW TO GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS

1. At your tables list all the things we need to do to get ready for Christmas. Think of as many things as you can. Longest list wins.
2. Now list all the things in the following needed to do to get ready for the birth of Christ. Compare the two lists. What does it mean to get ready for Christmas today?

### READING: LUKE 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

'A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. <sup>6</sup>And all people will see God's salvation."

This is the Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

### SONG: SOON AND VERY SOON

Soon and very soon  
we are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon  
we are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon  
we are going to see the King  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
We're going to see the King

SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021  
ADVENT 2  
WHAT'S THE TIME (2) IT'S TIME TO GET READY  
LUKE 3:1-6

No more crying there,  
we are going to see the king  
No more crying there,  
we are going to see the king  
No more crying there,  
we are going to see the king  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
We're going to see the King

No more dying there,  
We are going to see the King  
No more dying there,  
We are going to see the King  
No more dying there,  
We are going to see the King  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
We're going to see the King

Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia.

Soon and very soon  
we are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon  
we are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon  
we are going to see the King  
Alleluia! alleluia!  
We're going to see the King

#### ACTIVITIES:

##### Discussion questions:

Why do you think Luke includes the names of these rulers, Tiberius Caesar etc.?

What role does the high priest play in relation to the story?

The Word of the Lord came to John and not the others mentioned. Why did John preach in the wilderness?

When there is a crisis, such as a flood, authorities warn the people in advance if they can. Imminent danger needs urgent action. What was the emergency that John was declaring in this passage?

What was the purpose of a baptism of repentance? What major event in the Old Testament is it reminding the people about? Why does Luke use this quote from Isaiah 40:3-5 and in what ways was John a living example of this quote?

What does it mean in v6 by 'all people will see God's salvation'?

##### Craft activity

1. Take a piece of card and cut a circle. Decorate the circle with drawings or poems to do with Advent, or just make it colourful.
2. Take the card with a stocking shape & cut it out. Write or draw how you're going to get ready for Christmas or how you would like to help someone else get ready for Christmas.
3. Make a paper chain.

We are going to decorate the board with these to help the church get ready for Christmas.

##### Bible reading

Read and reflect on the Bible reading today. What is it saying to you at this moment?

##### SONG: FROM THE SQUALOR

From the squalor of a borrowed stable  
by the Spirit and a virgin's faith;  
To the anguish and the shame of scandal  
came the Saviour of the human race!  
But the skies were filled with the praise of  
heaven,  
shepherds listen as the angels tell  
Of the Gift of God come down to man  
at the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,  
humble servant in the Father's hands,  
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,  
filled with mercy for the broken man.  
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,  
joys and sorrows that I know so well;  
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again –  
I will follow my Immanuel!

SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021  
ADVENT 2  
WHAT'S THE TIME (2) IT'S TIME TO GET READY  
LUKE 3:1-6

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,  
He was lifted on a cruel cross;  
He was punished for a world's transgressions,  
He was suffering to save the lost.  
He fights for breath, He fights for me,  
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;  
And with a shout our souls are free –  
Death defeated by Immanuel!

Now He's standing in the place of honour,  
crowned with glory on the highest throne,  
Interceding for His own beloved  
till His Father calls to bring them home!  
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds  
hope of heaven or the fear of hell;  
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,  
giving glory to Immanuel!

#### **CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING**

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of repentance and your never-ending love for us. Help us this week to walk in your ways of love, truth and kindness. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

And now may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and with all whom you love, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**