

Reflection for the Week: 13-20th December, 2020

Third Week of Advent

John 1: 6-8; 19-28

This week on our Advent Wreath we lit our third (pink) Advent candle to remember John the Baptist.

In Sunday's Gospel we are told of a man named John who "was sent from God." The Baptist came, "for testimony, to testify to the light" for he was not, himself, the light. John had a very specific calling. He was sent into the wilderness to baptize people who wanted an outward sign to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins.

Throughout time, God has sent messengers to warn and to share his wisdom with his people. Last week, we mentioned these spokespeople for God - the prophets of Israel. We also noted that prophets were not confined to books of scripture, but that there are contemporary prophets who stand up for what they believe to be right. Every age has its prophets; philosophers, artists, poets, writers and scientists who have communicated aspects of God's truth and beauty in the world. In their unique way, all of these people could be considered 'to testify to the Light.'

The One to whom John testifies is not merely another messenger of the Word, but the Word himself. Jesus is not simply another spokesperson in the prophetic tradition.

To Reflect: What is unique about Jesus? Why is he not just another teacher or prophet?

To Pray: God our Father,

you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John.

He grew up strong in spirit,

prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,

and baptized them in the Jordan

to wash away their sins.

Help us, who have been baptized into Christ,

to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,

and to grow strong in the faith by the power of the Spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the light who is coming into the world. Amen. Common Worship: Times and Seasons