

Music – Geoff Gleed

Call to worship “*Lord, you forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins*” (Ps 85)

HYMN: On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry –Salisbury: From Darkness to Light/ 11

<p>On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry Announces that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings from the King of kings!</p> <p>Then cleansed be every breast from sin; Make straight the way for God within; Prepare we in our hearts a home, Where such a mighty Guest may come.</p> <p>For Thou art our Salvation, Lord, Our Refuge, and our great Reward. Without Thy grace we fade away Like flowers that wither and decay.</p>	<p>To heal the sick stretch out thy hand, And bid the fallen sinner stand; Shine forth, and let thy light restore Earth’s own true loveliness once more.</p> <p>All praise, eternal Son, to thee Whose advent sets thy people free, Whom, with the Father we adore, And Holy Ghost, for evermore.</p> <p>Words: Charles Coffin.</p>
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Second Candle of Advent: One candle to remind us of the prophets, the second for John the Baptist, who called people to change their way of living to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Prayer Thanksgiving and Confession - Lord's Prayer

Bible Reading Mark 1; 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight”’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with¹⁹ water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

Reflection

Music: Geoff Glead

Prayer Intercession

HYMN Come, thou long expected Jesus (From Darkness to Light – Salisbury Cathedral)/ 14

Come Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.	Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art Dear desire of every nation, joy of every lonely heart	By Thy lone eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thine glorious throne.
	Words: Charles Wesley.

Blessing

We travel in time; may God walk with us into eternity.
We travel in hope; may God sing with us through the darkness.
We travel in wonder; may God dance with us in holy joy.
So may the blessing of the God of glory, Traveller, Storyteller, Dancer
Be in us today and every day. Amen

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