

**Second Sunday in Advent**  
**For Group Meetings from December 2 through December 8**

**Prayer of the Day:** Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER:**

**Share:** How did last week's scripture (Luke 21:25-36) work in your life?

**Mission:** What was most satisfying about your ministry last week? Where do you see God at work? How did you participate in God's missional activity? ***How did inviting go last Saturday and Sunday? How many new people did you talk to?***

**Hear:** Luke 3:1-6

**Explore Questions:** (Use these or develop your own.)

1. These verses are about John the Baptist's proclamation. How does Luke give context and credibility to John's proclamation about baptism using historical facts and scripture?
2. How did John the Baptist fulfill the scripture quoted from Isaiah in vv. 4-6?
3. What did John do to "prepare the way of the Lord?" How might these words cause both discomfort and comfort at the same time?

**Connect Questions:** (Use these or develop your own.)

1. John proclaimed words of hope for all people in a desolate place which included the forgiveness of sins. Where do you hear words of hope these days and/or where do you think words of hope are most needed?
2. How do John's words help us to examine our own lives and our world? What do you see? How is God's word both comforting and uneasy when it speaks into our lives?
3. Advent is all about the coming of the Lord, both past and future. How might we prepare the way of the Lord in the Advent and Christmas season with faith, hope, and love?

**Prepare:** Memorize this verse: *"He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,"* (Luke 3:4). How do you hear God calling you?

**BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:**

**Obey:** During this week follow through on your intentions.

**Meditate:** Read Philippians 1:3-11. How does this speak into your life?

**Reflect:** What have I learned in my week of living with this text? What can I share with my group when we next meet?

**OUR MISSION TOGETHER:** As a missional congregation we celebrate Christ's presence, invite people into a growing relationship with Jesus, and equip them to serve in a broken world.

**Notes for ChristCare leaders:**

Luke writes his gospel good news for all people. That's the beauty of God's word and salvation – it is truly for all people. It is comforting and wonderful to know that God's love is for everyone. And yet, John's words can also cause discomfort as he talks of repentance and forgiveness, because that means change and responsibility for us as God's people. Grace is a gift, but also a great responsibility for us to live in faith and share it in as many ways as possible so that God's love is heard by as many people as possible! God makes great promises full of hope which give us something to look forward to, but also sometimes helps us to see how things could or should be. Until that time, we as people of faith are called to hear God's word through prayer, scripture, worship, song ... however it comes to us ... and then as co-workers with God, share the message of love and hope by living out God's forgiveness and mercy in our own lives.

Thanks be to God,  
Pastor Andrea [acain@desertcross.org](mailto:acain@desertcross.org)

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Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those  
Who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
And the glory are yours,  
Now and forever. Amen

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified died and was buried;  
He descended to the dead,  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
He will come to judge the living and the  
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen