

**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**For Group Meetings from December 9 through December 15**

**Prayer of the Day:** Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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 3:1-6) 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 3:7-18

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

1. These are John's post-baptism words to the people. How is he preparing them to live their new lives in Christ in vv. 7-9?
2. How did John answer the people's question in v. 10 – explaining how they should live out their baptism?
3. The people were hopeful, yet questioning. How did John reassure the people about his identity and Jesus' identity? How was this good news?

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

1. How do we take our faith for granted and what helps wake us up and reorient ourselves to God?
2. If you were to think about the ways you serve and things you do each day, how might those be ways you are living out your baptism?
3. When you are questioning or confused like the people in v. 15, where do you go for information and who or what do you trust to help you discern what is going on in your life and in the world around you?

**Prepare: Memorize this verse:** *“John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”* (Luke 3:16). How do you hear God calling you?

**BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:**

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

**Meditate:** Read Isaiah 12:2-6. 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:**

John comes out of the wilderness proclaiming good news from a place that is full of bad news. He is already turning things upside down before Jesus arrives. He is preparing people's hearts for Jesus' arrival. He proclaims good news of God's love for us in Jesus, yet he also says that things will change. Our lives will never be the same. We have a gift yet we are expected to use it wisely – not take it for granted, not keep it to ourselves – but to live it out each day embracing our belovedness, keeping in touch with our Savior, and sharing his gift of love with others every day! John is basically saying it's not about Who you are, it's about Whose you are. And Jesus says, "You are mine."

Thanks be to God,  
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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