

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

Advent means “coming.” The coming of the baby Jesus, God among us in human flesh. The coming of Christ again “the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. In between those two great comings is God’s constant longing for each of us to come to God, to love God, and to let God love us. ”

The Gospel of John tells the story of John the Baptist from a slightly different perspective. Who is this John? John understands he is a messenger of the light – not the light itself. Those in charge of keeping the faith are confused. Who is this man? Is this the long-awaited Messiah – or Elijah – or a prophet? John sees his mission as baptizing, and pointing to the one who is coming after him.

WHO ARE YOU?

The Story

Remember that last week we had a story about a man named John the Baptist? (Be open for anything they care to add about John.) Last week we learned that many people came to John the Baptist to be baptized. Baptisms take place in our church today. During this holy event, a cross is made on our foreheads. Today we will learn that John the Baptist was also a messenger. His job was not to be the teacher, but to point to the teacher, Jesus. People asked him: “Why should we listen to you, if you are not the teacher?” But John’s job was to be a messenger.

Reflection Questions:

Young Children

I wonder if you have ever been a messenger for someone else?

- I wonder what it is like to be a messenger?
- I wonder if it is hard to pass on someone else’s message?

Older Youth

Who does John say that he is? (John 1:23)

- Who does the writer of the Gospel of John say that John the Baptist is? (John 1:6-8) _____

- Why do you think God needed John the Baptist to prepare or “make straight the way of the Lord”? To stay awake, be alert, be ready?

ACTIVITIES

1. Script an interview that might occur between John and Jesus, and then act it out in a video or podcast.
2. Create a personalized logo or name tag for yourself.
3. Try any of the attached activities

