

Third Sunday of Advent



December 13, 2020
10:30 AM

Join us for our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>
or <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>
Zoom Coffee Hour: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>

December 13, 2020

Advent Intergenerational Zoom Events: Each Sunday of Advent we will gather on Zoom for a time of learning, singing, and sharing for all ages. Week 3, **TODAY at 4:00 PM**. Bring a Virgin Mary to share. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82809432951>.

Bridges continues to do the important work of making lunches, and is asking for our help for an upcoming run. We're asking if any families are willing to make at least 10 lunches apiece for the Bridges run on Saturday, **December 19**. Please contact Warren Hynes **TODAY** at hynesaw@msn.com for details. Click [here](#) for lunch preparation details.

Advent Sale: Due to COVID-19, we will not be hosting our annual Advent Sale; however, if you are looking for fairtrade gifts, visit: serrv.org and equalexchange.coop. To give ELCA Hunger Good Gifts visit goodgifts.elca.org.

Coffee Sale: Are you in need of our fairtrade coffee, teas, and chocolate? If so, contact Jane Bowman to arrange a pickup.

Pledge Update: Thus far we have received 73 pledges for a total of \$343,080 towards our goal of \$450,000. If you haven't yet submitted your pledge, please do so today.

Holiday Recipe Book: Even though we can't share in holiday parties, dinners, and festive snacks out in the narthex this year, we can still share St. John's holiday fare. Click [here](#) to download our recipe book.

Retirement Purse: Pastor Moore is retiring on January 31. If you would like to contribute to the Cash Purse we are collecting as part of our retirement gifts please access the Plumfund site [here](#).

Lutheran College Christmas Programs: Our Lutheran colleges have a long and venerable tradition of musical Christmas programs. This year during COVID-19, many of our Lutheran colleges are offering a virtual program. Access a listing [here](#) to help you observe this wonderful season.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Please give generously to the emergency fund sponsored by the Summit Interfaith Council to help Summit immigrant neighbors adversely affected by COVID-19. You may make your tax-deductible donation to the Relief Fund [here](#), by either check or PayPal. Checks should be made out to and mailed to Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.

Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Evening Prayer: Wednesdays, December 16 at 7:00 PM

Blue Christmas: December 23 at 7:00 PM Grieving, hurting, feeling blue? Join us for a special service of hope.

Christmas Eve Virtual Services: 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM on YouTube and Facebook

Christmas Eve In-Person Outdoor Service at 8:00 PM. Join us around the manger (in the Memorial Garden) as we hear the Christmas story and share communion.

Christmas Day Virtual Service: 10:30 AM on YouTube and Facebook



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.



Prayer Before Worship

Holy One, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. Amen.

*From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion,
Year B, Vol. 1*

PRELUDE Setting of *Christ, Be Our Light*

By Sally Drennan Mossing (b. 20th C.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who was and is and it to come. **Amen.**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill my promise to my people. Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess our sin before God.

Loving and forgiving God, we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 715 Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

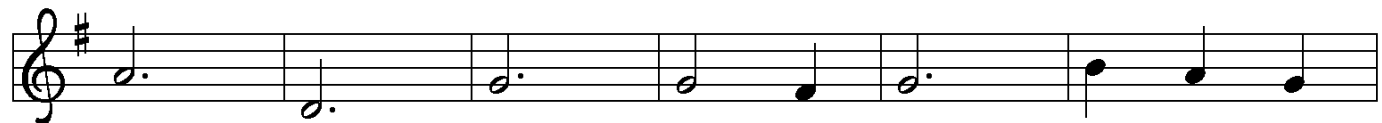


your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.”

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

HYMN We Light the Advent Candles

Verses 1 & 4

1 We light the Ad - vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night,
4 Three can - dles now are gleam - ing and show us the true way,
to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light,
re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day,
to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light.
re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day!

Text: Gracia Grindal (1943-)
Tune: German folk tune

76 76 76
WIR HATTEN GEBAUET
<http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/WAR2003/175>



FIRST READING Isaiah 61:1–4, 10–11

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE ELW 251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



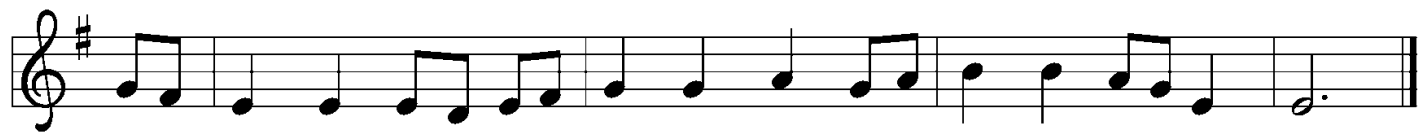
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The vocal line is written in a soprano or alto clef, and the piano accompaniment is in a bass clef. The lyrics are: "Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The music features a simple, rhythmic melody with a steady accompaniment of chords and eighth notes. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

Music: "Alleluia 7." Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community
Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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GOSPEL John 1:6–8, 19–28

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "as the prophet Isaiah

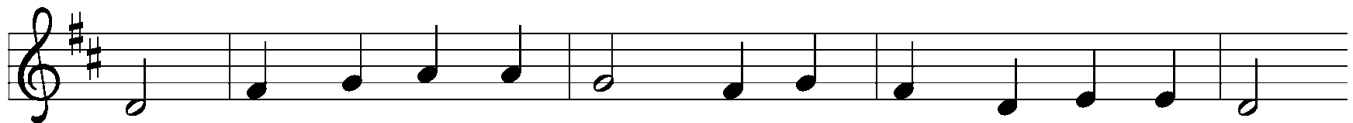
said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

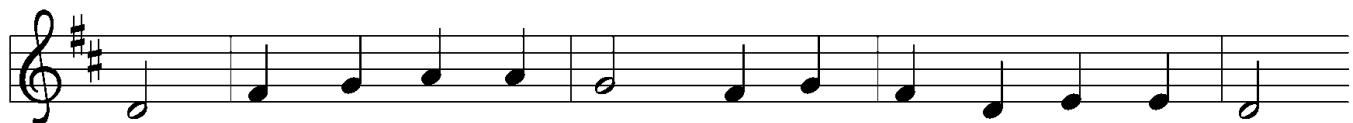
SERMON

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 241 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

PEACE
BE TO
YOU.

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving. You may also contact the church office for more options.

OFFERING MUSIC Setting of *Wie soll ich dich empfangen* By Donald Busarow (1934–2011)
David Neiman, oboe

OFFERTORY ELW 552 Blessed Be the God of Israel

Verse 1



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996, based on Luke 1:68–79
Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
Text © 1973 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company.
Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

GAUDETE

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Setting of *Haf Trones Lampa Färdig*

By Franklin Ashdown (b. 1942)

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>

Zoom Children's Time is on hiatus through **January 2**.

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on both our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

Hymns of Faith: Wednesdays at 10:30 AM. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88523165763>

Worship Live Stream at 10:30 AM on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit or our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ **Worship bulletins** are located: <https://www.stjohnssummit.org/bulletins>.

Giving Is Important. We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. Please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Clergy & Staff

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Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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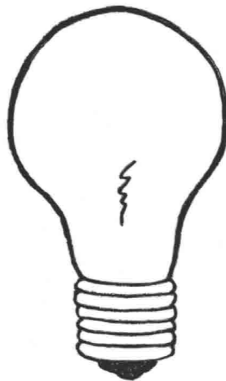
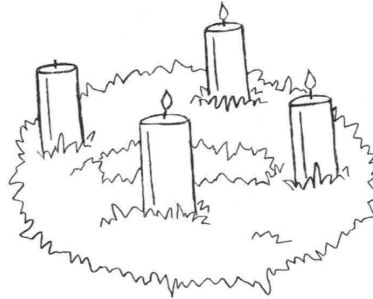
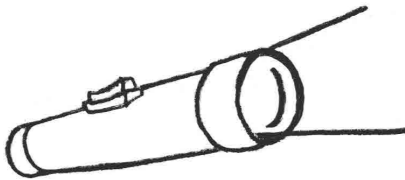


PRE-READER

Advent 3

- During Advent we **wait** for Jesus to come.
- Jesus is the **light of the world**.
- The **candles** in the Advent wreath give us **light**.

Color in each thing that gives us light.



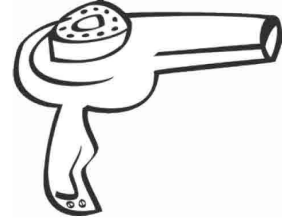


**“Are you listening?!? This is important!
Jesus is coming!”**



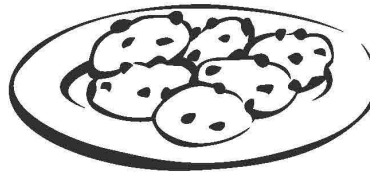
John the Baptist told people to **get ready** for Jesus to come. During Advent we get ready for Jesus, too!

What do you need to get ready in the morning? Circle the things you used today.



What else?

What do you need to get ready for Jesus? Circle the things you will do this week.



What else?

Evergreen **needles** stay green **all year long**. Evergreen branches make an Advent wreath. They remind us that God loves us **all the time**.

What green things do you see in church today? Draw or write about them here:



Many of us decorate **evergreen trees** at home to get ready for Christmas.

Draw ornaments on this evergreen tree to remind you to get ready for Jesus.





READER

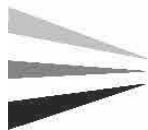
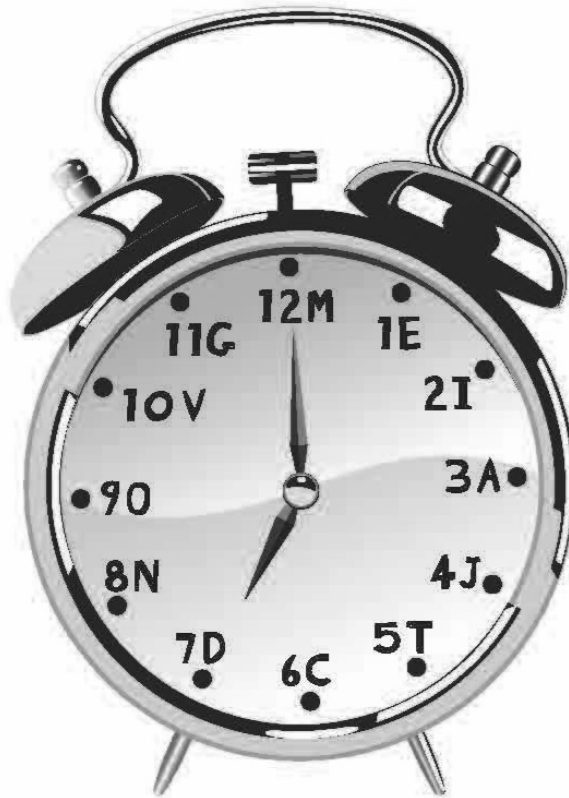
Advent 3

- Today is the **third Sunday** in Advent.
- Advent is a time to **wait for Jesus** to come be with us.



Time for Advent!

Use the numbers and letters on the clock to solve the hidden message. The first one is done for you.



 A

 7 10 1 8 5

means

 6 9 12 2 8 11

Who Is He?

In this story, John the Baptist asks Jesus some questions to find out who he really is. Fill in the blanks to complete this crossword puzzle. (If you need help solving clues, read the story in your Bible, Matthew 11:2-11.)

ACROSS

1. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my _____ ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'
3. The blind receive their _____, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed.
4. Are you the one who is to come, or are we to _____ for another?"
5. Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you _____ and see."

DOWN

1. When John heard in prison what the _____ was doing, he sent word by his disciples.
2. The deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have _____ brought to them."

Look at the letters in the gray boxes. Unscramble these letters to finish this sentence:

Advent means that God will be _____ us!



Look up these verses to fill in the blanks.

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the

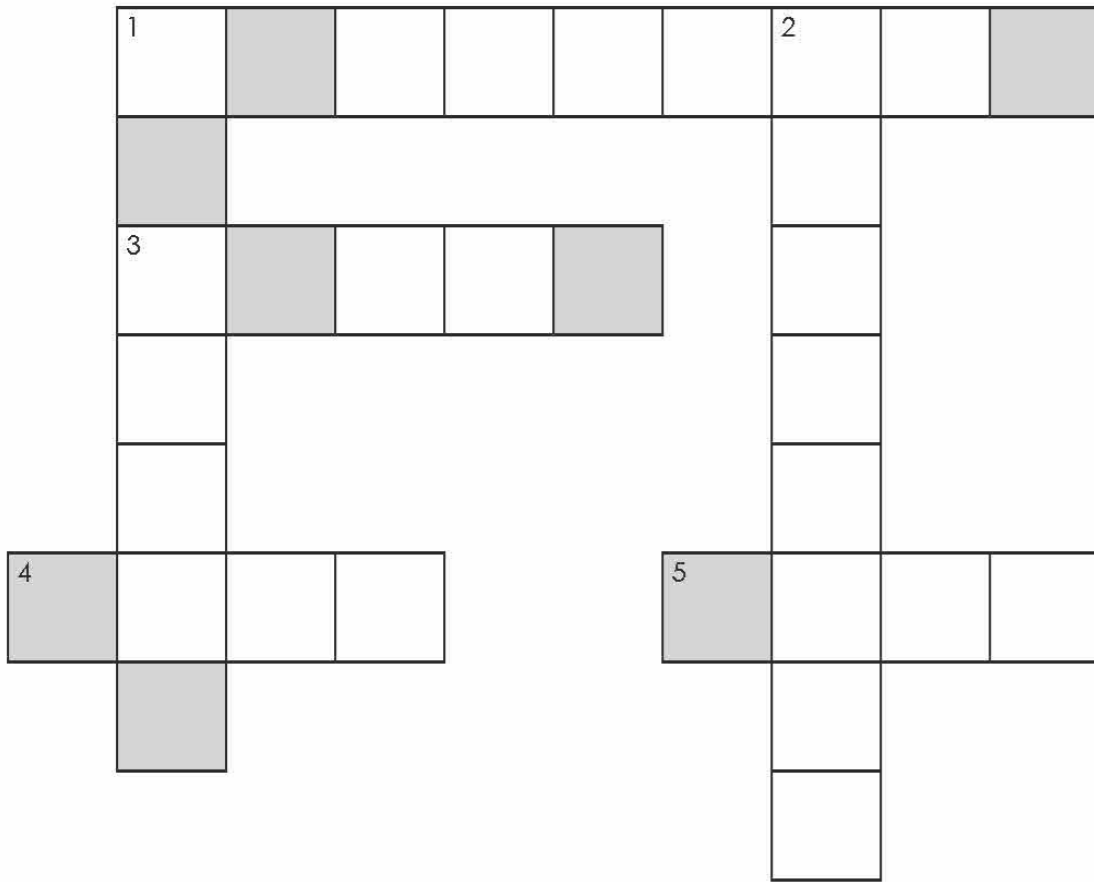
Memory Verse



_____ is greater than he. Matthew 11:11

Jesus answered them, "Go and _____ John what you

_____ and see." Matthew 11:4



Look It Up!

When he was in prison, John the Baptist heard about Jesus performing miracles. Look up these stories to read about some of Jesus' miracles.

Then sketch something from each miracle in the space below.

Matthew 8:5-13



Matthew 9:20-22

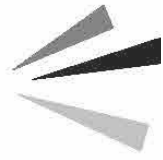


Matthew 9:27-31



Listen Up!

Listen during worship today and circle any of the words you hear.



Jesus

Advent

Wait

Coming

Prepare

Ready

Time

Prophet

Holy

Light

Messenger

Miracle

What other words did you hear a lot in church today?