

## Advent 3 – December 12, 2021

Godly Play Advent 3 Candle lighting <https://youtu.be/R7fGQRXlgok>

### Story

#### Get Ready! (Based on Luke 3 :7-18)

Get Ready!

God had a message for John. God wanted John to help the people get ready to welcome Jesus.

“Come and listen,” John called to the people.

“I have something important to tell you.

“Get ready! Someone special is coming!”

The people listened to John. “What should we do?” they asked.

John answered, “Share your food with people who are hungry. If you have more clothes than you need, share them, too.”

“Yes,” said the people, “we can share!”

“Get ready! Someone special is coming!”

Soon more people came to see John. “How can we get ready?” they asked.

John answered, “Don’t take money that doesn’t belong to you.”

“Yes,” said the people, “we can do what is right!”

“Get ready! Someone special is coming!”

“Yes,” the people said, “God is sending someone special. We must get ready.”

“Get ready!” Someone special is coming!”

John was right! Someone special is coming!”

John was right, someone special was coming. It was Jesus. Jesus was coming to tell everyone about God’s love.

#### Questions for thought (teens and adults)

##### Read - Luke 3:7–18

Luke’s account of John’s reproof can come across as harsh. Prophets are often unpopular because what they ask of us is not a part of our plans. Sometimes, the positive messages can be as challenging as the gloomy messages.

- Who are the prophetic voices in your life? in the life of the church?
- What role do they play? What do they encourage you to do or be?
- What is easier for you to engage: good news or bad news?

We call the gospel “the good news,” but perhaps there are times when it feels like something other than “good.”

- What other descriptions would you use for the “news” John the baptizer delivers in the gospel of Luke?

## Craft

### “Good News” bells

John the baptizer travelled throughout the countryside around the River Jordan telling all who would listen about God’s love. We can tell the good news of God’s love to each other.

Materials: paper cups, Christmas stickers, pipe cleaners, markers, tinsel, jingle bells, glue

Directions

1. Push a small hole in the base of the paper cup and loop a pipe cleaner through the hole to create a hanger. Twist the ends inside the cup to prevent the hanger from coming loose.
2. Attach a jingle bell to the end of the pipe cleaner inside the cup.
3. Use a marker to print a message such as “God’s love is good news!” on the outside of the cup.
4. Decorate the cup with stickers and tinsel.
5. Ring the bell and speak the message out loud to another person

## Practice

**Baptism by fire** -The practice of remembering our baptism

Materials: a bowl of water, lighted candles or another source of heat or light that can be used safely.

Directions:

1. Sit near the water and quietly reflect on the way it feels when water washes over you.
  2. Now think about the meaning of fire as a cleansing or refining agent.
  3. Consider the difference between these two elements as you wonder what we learn from John’s statement that the Messiah will baptize with Holy Spirit and fire.
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