

In the Wilderness

**Youth and Family Worship
December 6, 2020**

Call to Worship

L: Days are getting darker.

P: Who will come to give us light?

L: The voice of the prophet cries in the wilderness of our lives!

P: Is this prophet the One who brings the light?

L: This prophet brings witness to the Light which is coming for all people.

P: Praise be to God who has heard our cries. AMEN.

Invocation/Opening Prayer

Lord of Darkness and of Light, come to us this day in the midst of our growing darkness bringing the light of hope to our lives. Keep our hearts and minds alert to your presence. Give peace to our stressed spirits. In this season of Advent, prepare us to greet the One who will lift our burdens and change our lives forever. AMEN.

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1952/worship-connection-december-6-2020>

Children's Bible Story Mark 1:1-8

<https://youtu.be/pOPKWl61my0>



Children's worship song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKkblZtqhyQ&ab_channel=ListenerKids



Scripture Lesson Mark 1:1-3

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

Sunday School Lesson (Mark 1:1-8) John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus

The wilderness is an important place in the Bible. The Israelites got stuck in the wilderness in the Old Testament, but that served as an important place for them to develop and learn to rely on God. Jesus went into the wilderness to prepare for His ministry. In this passage, we recall that God promised to send a messenger to prepare the way for the Lord. This would be someone “crying in the wilderness.” The prophet Isaiah gave this sign, promising that one would come ahead of the Messiah to tell others about Him. Well, the name of this person was John the Baptist. As we prepare for Advent, he is an important figure to look at, because he helped prepare the way for Jesus.

Children's worship Song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzoOmdZrx8&t=14s&ab_channel=LifetreeKids



Jesus the light of the world Christmas Craft

<https://www.thinkingkidsblog.org/jesus-the-light-of-the-world/>



Isaiah 40:1-11

40:1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

40:2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

40:3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

40:4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

40:5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

40:6 A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

40:7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

40:9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

40:10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

40:11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Adult and Youth Bible Study Lesson

Read scripture Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-18

- Both passages talk about preparing a highway in the desert, about valleys being made low and uneven ground being made smooth. What is this imagery trying to convey?
- Isaiah's first hearers were longing for an end to exile, for justice to be done, and for a return home. But this returning home could not look like life as it was before. How is home both a place of comfort and a place of challenge? How does the church function as both a place of comfort and a place of challenge? How is the season of Advent a calling to a better version of home?
- What do we learn about God from these passages? What are we called to do in these passages?
- What practices can we take on this week to help prepare ourselves and others to experience the comfort and challenge of God's grace?

Adult and Youth Worship Song Light of the World

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olw5uHfvuw&ab_channel=SmithsburgValleyChurch



Message

We have 3 weeks until Christmas. Are you busy getting ready with the business of season? Frantically searching for that perfect gift, hanging the biggest brightest lights, cleaning and renovating the house for company, practicing new recipes for the big dinner? Or will it look different this year?

Maybe quieter, more reflective, less busy because we can't go anywhere or have folks over. Will it be less? Will you feel cheated or focus on the loss?

I think it could have the potential to be more; more of Jesus, more love, more peace. What if this year the entire focus could be on Jesus? In the quiet we find time to just focus on Jesus and what he means to us. To focus on God and the amazing gift he gave us.

So in your preparing these next few weeks prepare your heart to welcome the baby who will bring such joy and light to your life. Spend time in prayer, reading scripture, listening to Christian music, bringing joy and light to others. Listen to the story of Jesus birth with a new perspective.

Is there room in your heart for God to write his story?

Adult and youth Worship Song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUFSxt7qkNw&ab_channel=FaithDisplayed



Benediction, Blessing, Commission

On you, dear Ones, the light of Hope has shined. Keep that light in your hearts and spirits. Remember that even the smallest beam of light can illumine a pathway. Let your light shine before others that they may know the love of God. Go in peace and let God's peace flow through you. AMEN.

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