12 December 2021 - Advent 3

The Greeting - Hello and Welcome

The Lord be with you **and also with you**

Luke 3:7–18 - Please be seated

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our father.” For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.’  
‘What should we do then?’ the crowd asked.  
John answered, ‘Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.’  
Even tax collectors came to be baptised. ‘Teacher,’ they asked, ‘what should we do?’  
‘Don’t collect any more than you are required to,’ he told them.  
Then some soldiers asked him, ‘And what should we do?’  
He replied, ‘Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.’  
The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, ‘I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**  
Let us worship the Lord.  
**All praise to his name.**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Hymn - Lighthouse

In my wrestling and in my doubts  
In my failures You won’t walk out  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh  
You are the peace in my troubled sea

2 In the silence, You won’t let go  
In the questions, Your truth will hold  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh  
You are the peace in my troubled sea

*My Lighthouse, my lighthouse  
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You  
My Lighthouse, my lighthouse (oh oh)  
I will trust the promise, You will carry me  
safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh) x3 Safe to shore*

3 I won’t fear what tomorrow brings  
With each morning I’ll rise and sing  
My God’s love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh  
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh  
You are my light

4 Fire before us, You’re the brightest  
You will lead us through the storms *repeat x4*

Advent Candles - Number 3

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
John told the people to prepare,  
for you were very near.  
As Christmas grows closer day by day,  
help us to be ready to welcome you now.** **Amen.**

Sunday School begins

Psalm 146:1–10 - we stand to say

Praise the Lord. **Praise the Lord, my soul.**

I will praise the Lord all my life **I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;  
**on that very day their plans come to nothing.**

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
**whose hope is in the Lord their God.**

He is the Maker of heaven and earth, **the sea, and everything in them –**

He remains faithful for ever. **He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.**

The Lord sets prisoners free, **the Lord gives sight to the blind,**

. . the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,  
**the Lord loves the righteous.** **The Lord watches over the foreigner**

. . and he sustains the fatherless and the widow, **but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.**

The Lord reigns for ever, **Praise the Lord.**

Philippians 4:4–7 - please be seated

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Word Collect - Recognising Jesus

The Sermon - John the Baptist

Manual for Advent

• share what we have with those who don’t

• do our work honestly and well

• treat people with respect.

• act with integrity.

• live within our means.

Confession and Absolution

Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against thy holy laws. **We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us.**

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent;

According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Hymn 136 - On Jordan’s Bank

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every heart from sin  
make straight the way for God within,  
prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch forth thine hand  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth and let thy light restore  
earth’s own true loveliness once more.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
whose advent doth thy people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Declaring Faith - affirming our belief

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God? **I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church. **This is our faith.**  
**We believe and trust in One God,** **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Praying Together - Intercessions

Sunday Collect and The Lord’s Prayer - we pray with Jesus

A Thanksgiving - we give thanks to God

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
**For his steadfast love endures for ever.**

Give thanks to the God of gods.  
**For his steadfast love endures for ever.**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:  
**For his steadfast love endures for ever.**

**Be with us Lord,** **as we go out into the world.**

**May the lips that have sung your praise always speak the truth;  
may the ears which have heard your Word  
listen only to what is good** **and may our lives,  
as well as our worship, be always pleasing in your sight,  
for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn 151 - Child in the manger

Child in the manger, infant of Mary,  
outcast and stranger, Lord of all!  
Child who inherits all our transgressions,   
all our demerits on him fall

2 Once the most holy child of salvation,  
gentle and lowly, lived below;  
now, as our glorious mighty redeemer,  
See him victorious o’er each foe

3 Prophets foretold him, infant of wonder;  
angels behold him on his throne;  
worthy our Saviour of all their praises;  
happy for ever are his own.

The Blessing - and Dismissal

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord **In the name of Christ. Amen.**