

Trinity News

ADVENT 2

Advent and the BAPTISM of JOHN (Luke 3:1-6)



Last week we started the season of Advent. It literally means ‘arrival’ or ‘beginning’, it came from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming.” Appropriately in our church, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines and in many Christian churches it is the season that marks the beginning of our Liturgical year which simply **means retelling the Story of Jesus Christ the Messiah.**

In our gospel today Luke the biographer and evangelist tells us to some extent about how the story of Jesus’ “coming” happened. After much historical grounding, Luke talks about John, now commonly known as John the Baptist’s preparing the way. He received the word from God and then set off with the ministry to preach a “baptism of repentance” to different places in the vicinity of the Jordan River.

The Jews are familiar with the word Baptism, the Jewish Encyclopaedia tells us it is “A religious ablution signifying purification or consecration; the natural method of cleansing the body by washing and bathing in water, a custom in Israel; it involves the washing of their clothes which was an important means of sanctification instructed to the Israelites before the revelation on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19:10)”.

But John’s act has its emphasis, not just ceremonial but a baptism *of* repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Luke reveals it for a particular reason, quoting from the Jewish Scriptures, the Tanach. John is fulfilling what the prophet Isaiah said about the coming of Christ, the Jewish Messiah. From the Old Testament context the Messiah or Saviour is someone who would save Judah from progressing Babylonian oppression and captivity, for this reason a desert highway needs to be made. Now John, the Messiah’s herald is fulfilling exactly those words and making a convenient highway – in the hearts of men.

Deacon Melvin Bautista

A WARM WELCOME TO Bishop Dixie, Fr. Gonny, Children & Chaperones from Holy Family Organized Mission, St. Margaret's Mission Station, & the Senior Seminarians from St. Andrews'. We at Holy Trinity are very happy that you have come to join our Sunday School & worship with us this morning, which will be followed by a special coffee hour.

Yours in Christ,
Muriel Longid
President, Holy Trinity ECW

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 85; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18



REMINDER: CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.

Performance on the 24th, 4pm. Open to all ages. A sign-up paper is posted on the board for those who wish to participate.

Rehearsal schedule: Dec. 15 & 22 @ 11:00am

CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Dec 24, Monday.

- 4:00pm, Family Service
- 10:30pm, Midnight Service

Dec. 25, Tuesday. 10:00am, Christmas Day Eucharist

Jan. 1, 2013. Tuesday. 10:00am, New Year's Day Eucharist