

TRINITY NEWS

Advent III The personal and the Providential Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptizer was languishing in prison, he sent messengers from his disciples to Jesus asking a pointed question: "are you the one to come, or should we look for another?" The Baptizer had staked his prophetic life on his capacity to know when to announce "the one who was to come", that is, the Messiah. Now under pressure in a sordid prison, he cries out for help.

The response is brief, confirming what Jesus was actually doing in his ministry: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them; and blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me" (Matthew 11: 2-6). These are the last words from Jesus that John will receive before his execution in prison. It is a summary of Jesus' healing and teaching ministry. He made his healings the baseline for his status as a messianic prophet. His teaching aligned to the healings and his concern for the poor and oppressed showed his heart for those set aside on the margins of his society by circumstances and debilitating illnesses.

The Baptizer's need to find and proclaim the Messiah is also our concern, It is of the essence of the Messiah that once we find him we cannot ever be silent about him again, Such is the wonder of luminous wisdom and depth of person in him that envelops us like a mother wrapping a baby in something soft and warmly reassuring. The message from the Messiah draws us into his presence and love. This is what happened to the Baptizer. The Messiah knew exactly what to say to him. It was only a few words but it said everything.

Jesus went on to make some personal comments about John the Baptizer. He said that he was a true messenger of God, that his integrity as a prophet made him a great man. He saw him as someone who had prepared the way for his coming, not only by pronouncements, but by his testing of the will and heart and resolve of the people of Israel. He was not like "a reed shaken by the wind" and his dress fitted his ministry. Father Peter Chilver and Mary come amongst us today. They are looking for Christ in the midst of all our stuff. How we model Christ for them will be more impressive than our careful arrangements. We pray that they will see us as we are, warm and expressive people trying to serve the Lord. They will share of themselves in their genuine way, and their gifts for ministry will emerge. May we truly share of ourselves and our gifts in serving the Lord with them in the few days that they are with us. I know of no one better prepared, with such innate gifts, to serve our people at this time.

With love in the Lord.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

- ♦ Group discussion, 7:30pm,
Rectory

Thursday.

- ♦ Midweek Eucharist, 10am,
Chapel



TO PLAN: *Please join us
for lunch next week after
the 9:30 service.*

NEXT WEEK'S

READINGS:

Isaiah 7:10-17

Psalms 24

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

CHRISTMAS 2016 **Schedule of Services:**

December 18. Sunday.

- ♦ Nine Lessons & Carols, 7:00 p.m.

December 24. Christmas Eve.

- ♦ Family Service with Holy
Communion & Christmas Pageant,
4:00 p.m.
- ♦ Midnight Service, 10:30 p.m.

December 25. Christmas Day.

- ♦ Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.

NEW YEAR . January 1.

- ♦ Feast of the Holy Name. Holy
Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.