

SERMON NOTES 5 December 2021

sunnysidechurch

Bible Readings Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6

Questions for Discussion

1. What does the “coming of Christ” mean to you?
2. Christmas is for many their one remaining part of residual Christianity. How can we make the most of this?
3. John the Baptist is the voice crying in the desert, and calling us to prepare the way of the LORD. What should our preparation be?
4. Part of John’s message was “judgement”. What does this mean for us today? (The traditional “Four Last Things” of Advent are “Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell”)
5. Jesus is the “light coming into the world” at Christmas. How can we “testify” (i. e. witness) to the light?

A Prayer for Advent

O LORD our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful, as we await the coming of your Son our LORD, that when he shall appear he may find us not sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise, for the glory of your holy name. Amen

Main points of the sermon

Are you ready for Christmas? Advent is the time of preparation for Christmas. Advent means “coming” and I often think in terms of Christ’s coming, past, present and future.

Jesus came born at Bethlehem 2,000 years ago, He comes today in the power of the Holy Spirit, and He will come again in power and great glory.

Today’s readings are about John the Baptist. He is like a trumpet calling people to get ready. He is the voice crying in the desert to prepare the way of the LORD. His message wasn’t popular with everyone, (it upset some of Herod’s family and they had him executed), he didn’t mince his words in calling people to repent, which in some cases meant radical change.

We often read John 1 at Christmas. Here we are told of the light coming into this dark world, and the darkness cannot put it out. John the Baptist was a witness to this light, and he prepared people to receive this light.

John was a very powerful preacher, and many flocked to hear him. He did not get carried away with his success. His calling was to prepare the way for Christ. “The one coming after me is before me”. “ He must increase and I must decrease”

Are we ready for the coming of the LORD?

John’s message is “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”