

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2018

SERMON NOTES

“Prepare”

Isaiah 40:1-11, Luke 1:5-20, 57-66

Holiday Preparations

“Do we, who are busy preparing for Christmas, parties and presents and decorations and food and church programs – and visitors – do we prepare with equal fervor for the visitation of the Lord?”

Walter Wangerin

The “Other” Miracle Birth Story...

“Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”
(Luke 1:13-17)

“Prepare the Way of the Lord...”

“A voice of one calling: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; straight in the desert a highway for our God.’”
(Isaiah 40:3)

Who are You Preparing the Way for?

"The role of a prophet is always to announce the truth, the word of God, without quibblings or complexities; it is to show the way to life and liberation in the face of all the powers of evil, of unfaithfulness, of illusion, of lies, and of death. John called for a conversion of the heart; he pointed to Jesus and announced that he was the way."

Jean Vanier

"Each of us should find ways to communicate Jesus wherever we are. All of us are called to offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord, who despite our imperfections offers us his closeness, his word and his strength, and gives meaning to our lives."

Pope Francis

Additional Notes:

Questions for Further Reflection and Conversation...

- How are you preparing for Christ?
- Who prepared the way for you to know Jesus?
- How are you, like John the Baptist, preparing the way for others to know Jesus? Who are you preparing the way for?
- In what ways does your life point to Jesus?
- Who are five people you could invite to church for Christmas Eve? Will you?
- Reflect on the quotes. Which words or phrases touch you the most?