

Discussion and Reflection Questions
Advent 2 - Transformed by Peace 7th of December 2025

Read: Matthew 3.1-12

- ¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
- ² ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’
- ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” ’
- ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.
- ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan,
- ⁶ and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- ⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’
- ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance.
- ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
- ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
- ¹¹ ‘I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

Questions

1. What do you find easy & what do you find difficult about repentance?
2. John’s ministry is confrontational—calling for repentance & warning of judgment. How does this challenge our assumptions about peace as merely “calm” or “comfort”? How might repentance be the doorway to true peace?
3. What would it look like to “make straight” the paths in our own hearts and lives?
4. “Paths” in verse 3 is plural. How does the idea of Jesus making a path straight to each individual sit with you?
5. How can confession sins & repentance lead to peace (personal & in community)?
6. What does bearing “good fruit” look like?

7. How is Jesus' baptism different from John's
8. How do you think the world thinks about peace? How is God's peace different?

Prayer

God of all peoples, whose servant John came baptising and calling for repentance: help us to hear his voice of judgement, that we may also rejoice in his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.