

Sunday, December 5, 2021
2 Advent, Year C

Luke 3:1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. ’

OPEN

- If you are producing a play, is there someone from your family or friends that could play the role of this fiery preacher? Who would you cast in this role?
- If you were an advertising executive and your firm had been chosen to prepare the way for the President’ arrival in your hometown, what would you do?

DIG

- How much time passes between appearances of John the Baptist here and in 1:80? What do you suppose John was doing in those intervening years? Why?
- Why does Luke list all the political and religious leaders in verses 1-2?
- How would you describe John’s message and style?
- What’s radical about John’s message? What does the “root” and the “fruit” signify? Is he advocating social upheaval? Or inner transformation? Is he “preaching” or “meddling”? Why? Why would anyone go out of their way to hear such a preacher?

REFLECT

- Who have been the “John the Baptists” in your life - people who have shown you the way, led you to Christ, encouraged you, and given you a kick in the pants?
- What would John say you could do specifically to show Christian love and repentance?
- What action will you take this week to “produce fruit in keeping with your repentance”?