



RED HILL LUTHERAN

CHURCH & SCHOOL

9:30 Praise Service

December 6, 2009

Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Tom Brashears, Senior Pastor

Rev. Seth Britton, Associate Pastor

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *please stand*

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

Leader: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires know, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection. Congregation kneels/sits

Leader: Most merciful God,

People: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. By the authority of Jesus Christ, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

1. HOSANNA Baloche / Brown

Praise is rising eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring hearts are yearning for You
We long for You
'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence all our fears are washed away
Washed away

*Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus*

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your kingdom broken lives are made new
You make us new
'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence all our fears are washed away
Washed away

©2006 Integrity! Praise

2. YOU ARE MY KING Billy James Foote

*I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted, You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again.*

Amazing love, how can it be.
That You, my King would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true.
It's my joy to honor You. In all I do, I honor You.

Bridge:

You are my King.
You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King.

© 1999 worshiptogether.com songs CCLI License No. 215818

3. ONLY A GOD LIKE YOU Tommy Walker

For the praises of man I will never ever stand
For the kingdoms of this world I'll never give my heart away
Or shout my praise
My allegiance and devotion; my heart's desire and all emotion
Go to serve the Man who died upon that tree

*Only a God like You,
could be worthy of my praise and all my hope and faith
To only a King of all kings
Do I bow my knee and sing give my everything
Only a God like You,
could be worthy of my praise, and all my hope and faith
To only a King of all kings
Do I bow my knee and sing; give my everything
To only my Maker; my Father my Savior
Redeemer restorer; Rebuilder; Rewarder
To only a God like You do I give my praise*

Bridge:

Only a God like You (repeat)

©2000 Integrity's Praise! Music

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to _____.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

NIV Pew Bible page 1593

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. ³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶And all mankind will see God’s salvation.’ “

GOSPEL RESPONSE

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *The Second Candle is lit.*

Pastor: Blessed are you, God of our salvation; you promised to send your messenger to prepare the way by building a highway straight and level and by preaching a baptism of repentance. As we light these candles, kindle among us the refiner’s fire, purify us of sin, and bring the good work begun in us to completion by the day of Jesus Christ; let your face shine on us and bless us that we may be saved.

People: **Amen**

GREETING

WHAT CAN I DO? Graham Kendrick & Paul Baloche

When I see the beauty of a sunset's glory
Amazing artistry across the evening sky
When I feel the mystery of a distant galaxy
It awes and humbles me
To be loved by a God so high

*What can I do but thank You
What can I do but give my life to You
Hallelujah hallelujah
What can I do but praise You
Every day make ev'rything I do
A hallelujah a hallelujah hallelujah*

When I hear the story of a God of mercy
Who shared humanity and suffered by our side
Of the cross they nailed You to
That could not hold You
Now You're making all things new
By the pow'r of Your risen life
©2005 Integrity's Hosanna! Music / Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services)

MORNING MESSAGE

Pastor Ken Caudill

Please see the Brick for an outline of this morning's sermon.

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please complete your worship response card and place it in the offering plate.

OFFERING SONG

CHANGE MY HEART OH GOD

Espinosa, Eddie

Change my heart, O God
Make it ever true
Change my heart, O God
May I be like You.

You are the Potter
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me
This is what I pray.

© 1982 Mercy Publishing (Admin. by Music Services) CCLI #215818. Used with Permission.

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

The congregation shares the peace of Christ.

Pastor: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join them in exclaiming:

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

COMMUNION

*In our church, all baptized believing Christians are invited to receive communion. Please join us.
Although we use wine, a chalice of white grape juice is also available.*

COMMUNION SONGS

WELCOME TO OUR WORLD Chris Rice

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking
How we need to hear from God
You've been promised, we've been waiting
Welcome Holy Child, Welcome Holy Child

Hope that You don't mind our manger
How I wish we would have known
But long-awaited Holy Stranger
Make Yourself at home, Please make Yourself at home

Bring Your peace into our violence
Bid our hungry souls be filled
Word now breaking Heaven's silence
Welcome to our world, Welcome to our world

Fragile finger sent to heal us
Tender brow prepared for thorn
Tiny heart whose blood will save us
Unto us is born, unto us is born.

So wrap our injured flesh around You
Breathe our air and walk our sod
Rob our sin and make us Holy
Perfect Son of God, Perfect Son of God
Welcome to our world

©1995 Clumsy Fly Music

AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)

Tomlin / Giglio / Excell / Newton / Rees

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

*My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

© 2006 worshiptogether.com songs | sixsteps Music | Vamos Publishing

CLOSING SONG

HOSANNA (Reprise)

Readers

8:00 Nadene Pickford **9:30** Debbie Chrastil

11:00 Pamela Hunter

Altar Guild

8:00 Donna Anderson **9:30** Laurie Henry

Acolytes

8:00 Kari McCollum & Jared Updike

11:00 Melissa Davis & Haley Jones

Ushers

8:00 Frank Schaefer Group **9:30** Dave Meade Group

11:00 Jessie Hernandez Group

Greeters

8:00 Frank and Naomi Schaefer

9:30 Bob and Barbara Lodolo

11:00 Marlys Lano and Patti LeBrun

Communion Servers

8:00 Art & Charlotte Christensen

9:30 Michael & Sue Portune, Cindy Conrad & Melinda Olmedo

11:00 Mike & Nadene Pickford

Worship Leaders

Director of Liturgical Arts James M. Schaefer

Director of Music Jason Harney

Organist Dennis Siebenaler



RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

THE WEEKLY BRICK

December 6, 2009.

As you come to him, the living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 2:4-5

Charlene Needed To Change

Luke 3:1-6

I. CHANGE

The old popular song says it well, “There’ll be a change in the weather and a change in the sea, There’s even gonna be a change in me!”

John The Baptist preached about CHANGE. (Luke 3) That’s what repentance means...to turn and go in a different direction...to CHANGE direction.

II. LUKE in the Gospel for today tells us that John the Baptist fulfilled the ancient prophesy in Isaiah. (Luke 3:4) He is the voice crying in the desert wilderness, “Get ready for the Messiah who is coming. Get your lives in order. Bring down the mountains, fill in the valleys, make the crooked straight, and the rough places smooth so that the King has a easy road into your hearts.”

III. The CHRISTIAN Church has chosen this Gospel scripture for this 2nd Sunday in Advent admonishing us to get ready for the new born King Jesus. We need to change before we KNEEL at the manger. We have only 18 days left to get ready spiritually.

IV. WHAT needs to be changed?

a) Straighten the CROOKED ROADS . (Luke 3:5b)

Self Inventory Galatians 5:19-21

Gathering of Christian Men

Inmates around the table

Sin is a slippery slope. It is hard to stop and go in another direction.

b) Bring down the MOUNTAINS. (Luke 3:5a)

Pride involves self absorption. Me! Me! Me!

Charlene

God can CHANGE me for Christmas. AM I WILLING?

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Monday, December 7th *Read Luke 3:1-6; Galatians 1:4; Mark 1:15*

The coming of Jesus Christ was the pivotal point of human history. When He came to earth, earth saw the Son of God Himself ([1 John 1:1-3](#)). His impact upon the world can never be overstated. He changed the world so much that we measure our years by Him. Some may dispute His significance, but they are wrong. And their misjudgment will be confronted some day in the future. When? When Christ returns. Scripture declares that He is going to return to earth. He is going to return as a Judge, not as a Savior—the Judge who will prove that He is the King of kings and Lord of lords, the God of very God, the Messiah. He is going to prove that He is the Salvation of God Almighty.

A Person of such magnitude, the Person whose coming was to be the pivotal point of history, needed a forerunner--not the truck, the person! He needed someone who could run ahead of Him and arouse the people to prepare for His coming. That forerunner was John the Baptist, a man who is an example to us all. So, who was this person?

1. He was a man who launched the most pivotal point of history (v.1).
2. He was a man called out of the wilderness (v.2).
3. He was a man who preached repentance and forgiveness of sin (v.3).
4. He was a man who cried out apocalyptically: prepare, make God's paths straight (v.4-6).

1. Read 3:1. John was a man who launched the most pivotal point of history—the coming of Christ. Some may dispute that the coming of Christ is the most significant event in history, but Scripture proclaims that God will someday reveal the fact to all. Luke points to the fact by dating the coming of Christ with significant events and historical rulers. The very first event was God's call of John. Therefore, the beginning of the greatest period in all history began with the call of John, the Lord's forerunner. Note several facts.

1. Tiberius Caesar was in the fifteenth year of his reign when God called John. Tiberius was the second Roman Emperor, beginning his reign in A.D. 14. Therefore, the emergence of John took place between A.D. 28-29.

2. Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea. He was both the civil ruler and a military commander. The situation had grown so bad in Judea that Rome had to remove Archelaus from civil control and move in a military commander. Therefore, Judea was ruled directly by Roman authority at this time. Pilate held office from A.D. 26-36.

3. Herod Antipas was tetrarch of Galilee and Perea. Tetrarch simply means a ruler over a fourth part. Herod Antipas was the son of Herod the Great. He inherited his territory at his father's death and ruled from B.C. 4 to A.D. 39. Note that he was the ruler over Galilee where Jesus spent most of His time ministering.

4. Philip was tetrarch of Ituraea and Trachonitis. He was a reputable leader, known as a fair and just ruler. Caesarea Philippi was built and named after him. Caesarea was where Peter made his great confession.

5. Lysanius was tetrarch of Abilene. Nothing of importance is known about him.

6. Annas and Caiaphas were High Priests. This statement throws a revealing light upon the high priesthood of Jesus' day. It shows just how political and corrupt the high priesthood had become. There was never to be more than one priest at any given time, for the priesthood was supposed to be for life and was supposed to be hereditary. But with the coming of Roman rule, the High Priest became a political power base. Rome used the position to secure power over Jewish life. They offered and gave the position to men who were cooperative and willing to let the people follow Roman rule. For example, between B.C. 37-A.D. 26 twenty-eight different men were installed and removed as High Priests.

The point Luke is making is just this: the High Priest's office had become corrupted, and religious positions had become politically motivated. Annas, who had served as High Priest between A.D. 7-14, was still the power behind the throne. Caiaphas was officially the High Priest in Rome's eyes, but Annas was still the one to whom most Jewish leaders looked. This is actually seen during the trials of Jesus. Jesus was taken first to Annas, despite the fact that he was not the official High Priest ([John 18:13](#)).

Tuesday, December 8th *Read Luke 3:2*

John was a man called out of the wilderness. Note three points.

1. God's call came to John in the wilderness, in an obscure place. The place where John was reared was so slightly populated that it was known as a wilderness. The area consisted of only six small towns or villages scattered far apart. God found him in the most obscure place. The place where a person is does not matter; a person's heart is what matters. If a person's heart is right toward God, God will call him no matter where he is. No one is hidden from God, no matter how obscure his residence is. The Word of God is not limited; it reaches even to the wilderness.

2. God's call was a very personal matter. Note: John never revealed how God spoke to him. Did God call him through a vision, through the appearance of an angel, through an audible voice, or through an inner sense? We do not know. John kept the matter in his heart; it was just too intimate, too meaningful an experience. And his heart was genuine and pure. He was not willing to lower his intimacy with God by talking about it and boasting in it, that is, by acting super-spiritual.

3. God's call was for John to serve God rather than to serve institutional religion. John was somewhere around thirty years of age, the age when he was to become a full-fledged priest by descent. Remember, his father Zacharias was a priest, and

the priesthood was by descent. He was supposed to have been in training for some five years, and when he reached age thirty he was to begin serving in the temple. But God's call to John was to a different ministry, a ministry that fitted into God's plans much more than institutional religion. It is God who calls one, not institutional religion. Your first loyalty is to God, not to institutional religion. This can be a tough decision to make because we're taught to trust up the organizational ladder rather than to trust the Father.

Here's what I believe: God moves outside *institutional religion* as well as within institutional religion (cp. Simeon, probably a priest, and Anna, a prophetess within the temple). Note two things.

1) **Institutional religionists often frown and oppose those ministering outside the institution.** They feel threatened, as though the *outside minister* is against them. Sometimes they are right; the outsider is sometimes against them. But if the outside minister is truly ministering, there should be support and encouragement. However, too often cooperation is not given. The institutional religionist too often fears the loss of authority, position, and security; therefore, s/he opposes the *outside minister*. Such motives are corrupt and need to be corrected. Ministers, both within and without institutional religion, need to be about God's call and business. They should not be wasting time by struggling against each other. Time is too short, and God's call comes to us both within and without institutional religion. Each needs to support the other in God's calling.

2) **A person must do and serve God as God calls and wills.**

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

2 Corinthians 5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

2 Corinthians 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Ephesians 3:7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

1 Timothy 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.

2 Timothy 1:11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

Wednesday, December 9th Read Luke 3:3

John was a man who preached repentance and forgiveness of sins. Note the exact wording: he preached "the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." This simply means that if someone wished to be forgiven their sins, they repented. They turned from their sins, and changed their life; then they were baptized. Baptism was the sign to their neighbors and the world that they were changing their life (repenting) because they wanted God to forgive their sins. The order is this:

⇒ Someone wanted God to forgive their sins.

⇒ They made a decision to repent, to turn from sinful ways, and to change their life

⇒ They were immediately baptized.

Now note. It was baptism that proclaimed to everyone that they wanted forgiveness and were turning from sins (repenting). Baptism was the act, the sign, that said to the world that they were thereafter going to live a changed life so that God would forgive their sins.

Two simple facts are being stated.

1. **Forgiveness of sins is conditional.** You must repent to be forgiven, and if you truly repent, you are baptized. Baptism is part of the act of repentance!

2. **Baptism is the immediate witness and sign that you are repenting and changing your life.** If you are truly sincere in seeking forgiveness, you are baptized and change your life, turning away from sin and turning to God

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Luke 13:3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

Thursday, December 10th Read Luke 4-6

John was a man who cried out apocalyptically: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight". John warned the people and he quoted [Isaiah 40:3-5](#) as his authority. He took the points Isaiah had made and proclaimed them to the people.

1. **Prepare, for the humbled shall be exalted.** Every valley (the humble believers of the earth) shall be filled, that is, received, enriched, raised up, and exalted.

2. **Prepare, for the proud shall be abased.** Every mountain and hill shall be brought low. The mountains and hills would

be the great and the less great, the self-sufficient and the self-confident, the prideful and the boastful, the conceited and the arrogant. They shall lose everything they have and be brought low. They shall be made as the dust of the earth if they do not repent.

3. Prepare, for the crooked shall be straightened. The crooked thief and businessman, the crooked husband and wife, the crooked student and professor—all the crooked sinners of the earth who are bent out of shape—all who repent shall be made straight by the Messiah.

4. Prepare, for the rough ways shall be made smooth. All the rough ways of the earth—the ways of hopelessness, helplessness, loneliness, emptiness, insecurity, guilt, shame, sin, death, false religion, and empty worship—all shall be made smooth. The way to life and peace shall be planed, made level, and easy to reach.

5. God’s salvation shall be seen by all flesh. Not only the Jews, but all people shall see the Messiah, God’s salvation to the world. When the way is prepared, the Savior will appear.

John’s preaching aroused thousands. It woke them up and stirred them to prepare and to look for the Messiah. Apparently, it was the multitude who listened to John who eventually became the followers of Christ. It was also the same multitude who created the excitement needed to spread the news of the Messiah’s coming.

Amos 4:12 “Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel.”

Hosea 10:12 Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers righteousness on you.

Joel 2:12-13 ‘Even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

2 Timothy 2:20-21 ²⁰In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. ²¹If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

Matthew 24:44 ⁴⁴So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Mark 13:35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back--whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

Friday, December 11th Read Luke 4-6

The word baptism (*baptisei*) means to dip, to immerse, to submerge, to place into. John’s baptism was with water, but Jesus’ baptism was “in [en] the Spirit and fire.”

1. John’s baptism was both a preparation and a symbol of the spiritual baptism that Jesus was to bring. John’s water baptism meant two things.

- It symbolized cleansing from all sin. A person was being prepared for the cleansing that Christ would provide.
- It symbolized separation or dedication. A person was setting his life apart to God in a renewed spirit of dedication.

He was committing himself to the Christ about whom John was preaching.

Note: John’s baptism is called “the baptism of repentance”; that is, the person who repented was baptized. There could be no question; it was understood: if a person repented and actually turned to the Lord, he was baptized.

2. Jesus’ spiritual baptism was a double baptism. (Only one preposition is used in the Greek for “the Spirit and fire,” the preposition “in.”)

- Jesus baptizes the person in the Spirit.** He dips, immerses, and places the person in the Spirit. Whereas the person was carnal and materialistic minded, he now becomes spiritual minded ([Romans 8:5-7](#)). The Jews had looked and longed for the day when the Spirit would come. The prophets had predicted His coming time and again. Therefore, the people knew exactly what John was predicting. The Spirit was expected to awaken and excite the people to such a degree that they would mobilize behind the Messiah and follow Him in the overthrow of all oppressors. The Spirit was to lead the people in freeing Israel and establishing it as one of the greatest nations on earth (cp. [Ezekiel 36:26-27](#); [Ezekiel 37:14](#); [Ezekiel 39:29](#); [Isaiah 44:3](#); [Joel 2:28](#)).

- Jesus baptizes the person in fire.** Fire has several functions that graphically symbolize the work of Christ. It illuminates, warms, melts, burns, and utterly destroys. The difference between baptism with water and fire is the difference between an outward work and an inward work. Water only cleanses the outside; fire purifies within, that is, the heart. Jesus Christ separates a person from their former life and purifies them within by the fire of His Spirit. It should be

noted that in John’s mind the “baptism of fire” meant that the Messiah was to destroy the enemies of Israel. It was “the messianic fire of judgment” that was to come from the throne of David.

