

## Second Sunday of Advent

### ***The Word of God Came to John in the Wilderness***

Luke 3: 1-6

In 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 was the ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abelene, during the high priesthood of Anna and Caiaphas, the Word of the Lord came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

#### ***Reflection***

***Christianity is historical. That is a scandal! Our history is taken seriously by Luke. John was in a specific place called the wilderness. He is a son of Elizabeth and Zechariah. Luke outlines the political climate about what leaders are where and who is in power. We know from history that these regimes were anything but benign. These leaders were oppressive, brutal and unjust.***

***But the Word comes to John! Interesting parallel!***

He went into the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins as it is written in the book of the Prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every 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.

#### ***Reflection***

***The Word of God came to John in the wilderness. Do we really know what that means? Isn't it strange that God's Word would come in a deserted place to a funny man dressed weirdly eating strange food? Some followed him while many, I imagine, thought him crazy and gave him a wide berth!***

***Yet the Word of God comes to him.***

***How does the Word reach him? Does it come to him from a book? from a scroll?***

***Does it come to him from the air? from the rocks? from the sky? from his own lived experience? from his prayer and meditation?***

***It does not say! But the Word comes to him!***

***How does the Word of God come to you and to me? How would you answer that question, if asked? Does the Word of God come to me in my community? in my classroom? in my dealing with the sexual abuse scandal? in my illness? In any situation?***

*Does the Word of God really come to a plumber fixing a leaky valve, to a clerk in an office, to leaders of nations, to a mother nursing a sick child? to a religious leader? To ordinary Joes and Josephines like you and me?*

*If we are to accept this Gospel then the answer is Yes!*

*God's Word is addressed to us always, in specific places and real times. Of course, we would prefer it to be an ideal time, a clean and lovely time and place without scandals, injustices and wrong-doings! The fact is that our salvation, according to Luke, is grounded in the oftentimes messy reality of history.*

*It is there that we hear it, reflect on it, listen to it, obey it and proclaim it.*

*The season of Advent clearly reminds us that our God comes and lives in history and not outside it*

*God always works in and through normal everyday experiences, in conventional places, in human affairs, in regular time, in the warp and woof of human existence!*

*The Word of God is historical as much as we would like to deny it!*

*Isn't it marvelous! Isn't it a mystery!*