

Redeemer/ St. George's January Newsletter 2025

Happy
Newyear

From the Pastor's Desk



A Lesson from John

Dear Friends,

Christmas Season is upon us (almost past!), after all of the preparations – those that we completed and those that we didn't quite get finished with. John the Baptist figured into our readings pretty regularly throughout Advent, and while he gets a hiatus through the 12 days of Christmas, he will be back soon – the Sunday after Epiphany we see him when Jesus comes to the Jordan to be baptized by him.

Continued on the next page.....

Service schedule

Services in January will be as follows.

Sunday Jan. 5 Anglican Communion

Sunday Jan. 12 Lutheran Communion

Sunday Jan. 19 Anglican morning prayer

Sunday Jan. 26 Lutheran Communion



John's mission was to prepare the way for the Messiah, for Jesus – in part, this was the work of opening people's hearts and minds. So that every heart might prepare Him room. John was clear that he was not the Messiah and was the one preparing the way for Him. While we often focus on John's words, which pointed to the One who was coming after him, his actions are a lesson for us also.

Consider that when Jesus came to be baptized, John immediately recognized Him as the Messiah – he commented to Jesus that he needed Jesus to baptize him. Consider that when the crowds came to John and asked him if he was the Messiah, his answer was that he wasn't.

Consider that when his own followers told him that Jesus' disciples were baptizing more people than John was, John's response was that this was how it should be – “He [Jesus] must increase, and I must decrease.”

John carried his purpose with him, and it guided his words and actions. His mission shaped all that he did, and he didn't try to overstep his boundaries. How easy it might have been for him to try to make something of himself, that the Messiah would come to be baptized by him (“I'm that good.”). How easy it might have been for him to claim that he was the Messiah when the people asked him – how far might he have gone if he had embraced the adulation of the crowds? How easy it might have been for him to claw and scrape to hold onto his own area of influence in the countryside, rather than to give place to Jesus – he had already made a name for himself, and had a recognizable brand!

But John didn't want to make something of himself. He had clarity on his own life's purpose, and he pursued his own mission – which was to give place to Jesus. And so he humbled himself before Jesus. Pope

Gregory the Great issued a firm reminder concerning John the Baptist, that it is in humbling ourselves that we are exalted – that self-denial is the path to the glorious and gracious impartation of our identity in Christ Jesus. We are made a part of Him. But to really humble ourselves – to not grasp what we've made for ourselves, or to forward ourselves above others – requires us to hold a real clarity concerning our own place in the world, and in God's plan.

Because it is an attitude that is diametrically opposed to what we commonly hear.

Jesus taught that if we would save ourselves in this life, we will lose this life; that if we will lose our lives – offer ourselves according to God's purpose instead of our own – if we lose this life, then we will find it.

John the Baptist pointed to Jesus, the One who came after him, by his words and by his actions. As we seek to know Jesus and His life more, in our lives, may we learn this secret. One person said it like this: You are no fool to give up what you cannot keep in order to gain what you cannot lose. May His life be born in each of us afresh this season!

Amen.

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This month at church:

Choir Practice Will be Tuesdays this year. All are welcome to join. Jan. 7,14,21,28

Council and Vestry will meet Tuesday Jan. 21 at 7:30

Thursdays Jan. 9,16,23,30 at 1:30 there will be a Book of Common Prayer Communion service with bible study to follow at 2:00, led by Jonathan.

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 meet for coffee and discuss what you have been reading this week in the bible.

January 19 soup and sandwich potluck

January 19 reports due for Redeemer and St. George's AGMs

Looking ahead **St. George's potluck and AGM Feb. 2,**

Redeemer AGM Feb. 9

Every Sunday remember your Loonie for the little church donation for Samaritan House safe and warm shelter.

The Bible Project

This year we have taken on the ambitious challenge as a community of Christ-followers, to read the entire bible. To assist us in this task, we will be following the One-year Bible Reading plan from the Bible project. You can find this online here: <https://bibleproject.com/>

There is also an app that can be downloaded to assist you with this challenge. You can find it in the app store or on google play. It is called BibleProject App
Watch FaceBook for updates from Jonathan

A peek around church



Children placing
Mary,
Joseph, and the
donkey in
the manger.



Wonderful musicians



Dec. 22 Lessons and Carols



Behind the scenes
We have many
wonderful folks
who work behind
the scenes. If you
would like to help
talk to Kathy,
Carole or Sharolyn.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



The Ven. Cheryl with the children



Pastor Jonathan preaching



The Choir



Silent Night to candlelight

January 2025

Remember to bring a loonie
a week for the little church.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1	2	3	4
Anglican Communion 5	6	7	Fair view 10:00 Soun's 2:30	8	9	10	11
Victoria Landing 3:00		Choir 6:15	Hillcrest 11:00 Dinsdale 2:00	1:30 Communion 2:00 Bible study			
Lutheran Communion 12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
		Choir 6:15	1:30 Communion 2:00 Bible study				
Anglican Morning Prayer 19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
		Council/Westy Choir 7:15 Choir 6:15	Riverheights 11:00				
Lutheran Communion 26	27	28	29	30	31		
Valleyview 2:00		Choir 6:15	1:30 Communion 2:00 Bible study				
Samaritan Abuse Sunday							

print-a-calendar.com

Note: soup and sandwich potluck Jan. 19

