



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

December 7, 2014

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 (13)

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8



A Messenger Sent from God. *Object:* A bell such as a town crier might have used (to ring as you begin the sermon & a newspaper).

Before the days of printed newspapers, town criers walked through the streets ringing a bell and calling out, "Hear ye, hear ye!" Then they shouted out the news from every street corner announcing the time of town meetings and other items of interest to the people. Even after printed newspapers came along, you could walk the streets of a city and hear the voice of a newspaper boy crying out, "Extra! Extra! Read all about it!" Then he would shout out the days headlines, hoping to get the attention of those who were passing by so that they would buy a newspaper.

Today, people get the news in many different ways. Some rely on the newspaper and they read it from cover to cover, some get the news from the Internet, others get the news by listening to the radio. Probably the main way that people get the news today is by watching television. No matter how you get the news, it is important to know what is going on in the world around us.

Long before the birth of Jesus, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah to tell how he would spread the news of the coming of the Messiah. This is what he said, "I will send my messenger to prepare the way. He will be a voice of one crying in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord! Clear the road for him.'" Who was the messenger that God chose to bring this good news to his people? It was a man named John the Baptist. John was a very unusual man who wore clothes made of camel hair with a leather belt around his waist. His favorite food was locusts and wild honey. He traveled around in the desert preaching that people should repent of their sins and turn to God. When they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan river.

John the Baptist was very popular and had a great following, but he always told the people about Jesus. "Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am," he said. "He is so much greater that I am not even worthy to stoop down and untie the straps on his sandals." Yes, John was faithful in bringing the news to the people.

It has been 2000 years since God sent his Son, but God still needs messengers to spread the news. This year, as we celebrate our Savior's birth, won't you be God's messenger to share the good news with others?

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia (Luke 3:4, 6)

Father, we thank you for this very special time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. There are many who do not know about Jesus. Help us to be your messengers and share the good news. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. -Used by permission, Sermons4kids

Word Search Puzzle

J	Z	P	T	V	R	I	V	E	R	T	U	W	T	P
T	L	U	S	E	L	K	X	B	A	P	T	I	Z	E
N	B	X	U	Y	R	K	G	Y	S	L	Z	L	D	Q
M	D	E	S	E	R	T	W	J	O	R	D	A	N	P
F	O	P	S	A	H	N	I	O	F	Y	B	J	O	R
U	H	T	T	J	W	R	U	W	R	O	C	K	S	E
E	J	O	R	J	C	A	F	V	I	T	Z	B	O	P
A	V	H	A	H	W	O	F	D	D	L	H	Z	G	A
S	U	J	I	O	N	F	N	L	O	O	G	Y	N	R
I	H	I	G	N	I	I	I	F	C	C	L	R	J	E
N	X	I	H	E	E	W	V	Y	E	U	L	I	Q	G
S	O	A	T	Y	P	R	O	T	K	S	X	H	I	T
B	P	H	H	I	P	H	I	L	J	T	S	Z	U	I
E	T	K	D	Z	V	V	C	G	T	S	F	P	I	S
F	P	A	T	H	S	J	E	S	A	N	D	A	L	S

HONEY	BAPTIZE	SINS	LOCUSTS	JORDAN
PATHS	RIVER	VOICE	WORTHY	CONFESS
STRAIGHT	WILD	DESERT	PREPARE	SANDALS

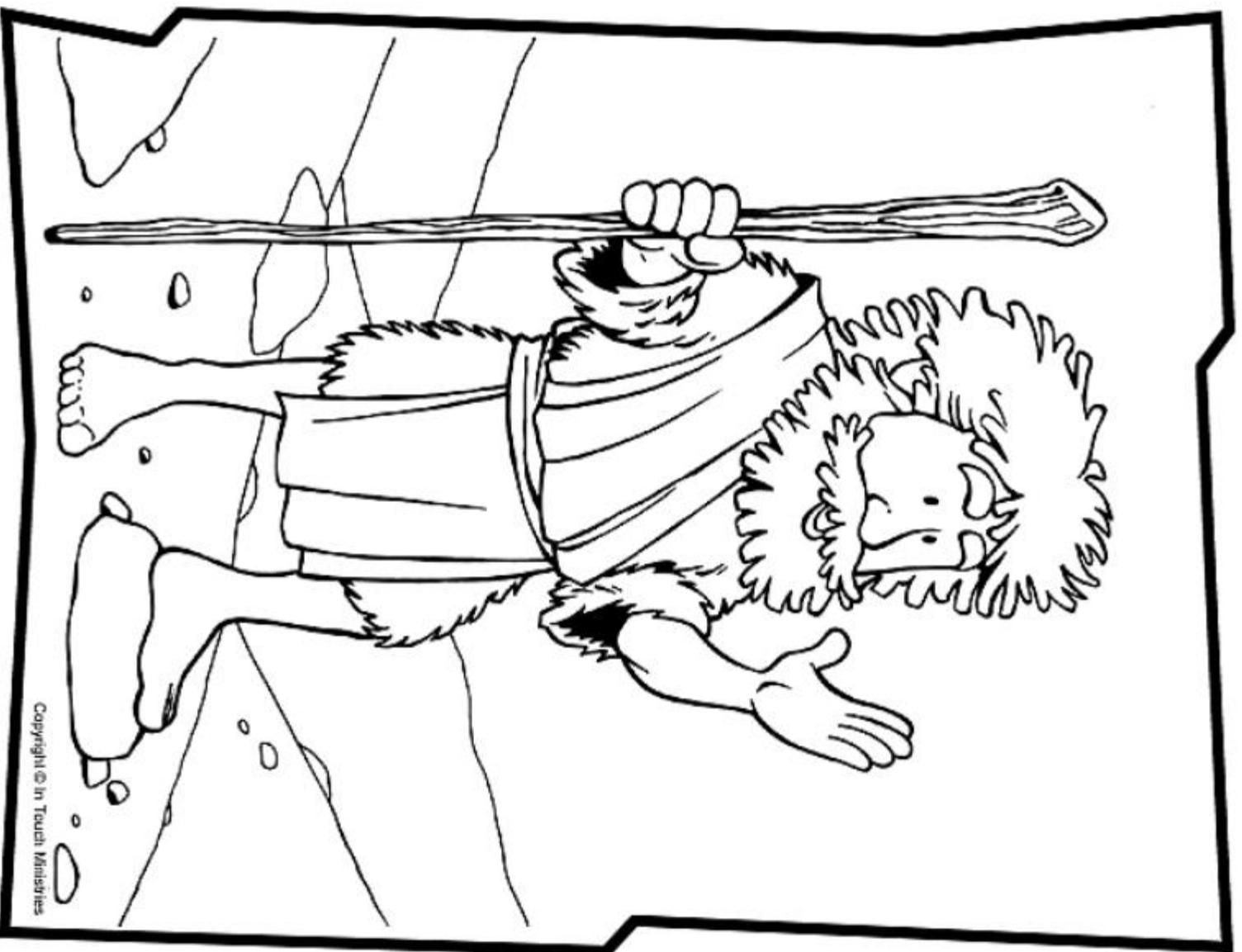
BELL ART: Give children a sheet of construction paper and a marker to draw and cut out a large bell. Let them add glitter glue around the edges of the bell. On the bells, the children can write SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS! Punch a hole at the top of the bell and put a piece of yarn through it to create a hanger.

BELL NECKLACES: The teacher will provide a jingle bell and a piece of red or green ribbon for the children to make a bell necklace to wear during class. Tell the children that whenever the teacher says, "PREPARE THE WAY" they should ring their bells.



JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4



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