

## Advent

“Upside Down”

Week 2: Christ Our Peace, Christ our Rescuer

**Introduction:** The central themes of this second week of Advent are *peace* and *rescue*. Like the nation of Israel in Jesus’ day, we also long for peace. The world is not as it should be, but one day, Christ will return to make all things right - He is our rescuer and our peace.

**Opening Prayer:** Almighty God, open our minds as we turn to your word. We long to know you, we long to hear you. Search our hearts and examine our thoughts. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior and by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

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**First time through...consider the following questions as the scripture is read aloud:**

1. What words or phrases from this passage catch your attention? (write them down/underline them).
2. How many people are named in these passages? What is the importance of these details?

**Read Luke 3:1-6 (below) and Discuss**

**Reading: Luke 3:1-6 (NIV)**

**1** 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— **2** during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **3** He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **4** As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.

**5** Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.

**6** And all people will see God’s salvation.”

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**Second time through...consider the following questions as the scripture is read aloud a second time:**

1. What does this passage say about God?
2. In what way will the Lord turn things upside down?

**Read Luke 3:1-6 and Discuss**

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**Third time through...consider the following questions as the scripture is read aloud a third and final time.**

1. What does this passage say about Jesus? What does it say about the people of God, myself included?
2. Is there any peace that comes from this passage? Explain.

**Read Luke 3:1-6 and Discuss**

**Reflection:** John the Baptist trusted God's promise to send a Messiah, a rescuer, who would make all things right. As God's people, we too carry this promise in our hearts. It is what motivates us to then be vessels for God's peace in the world. We are preparing the way for Christ's coming.

**Suggested Prayer** "God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Keep our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near; your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen"- *Book of Common Worship*, 174

