

## Gospel

**John 1:6-8; 19-28**

### The Testimony of John the Baptist

<sup>6</sup> God sent a man, John the Baptist <sup>7</sup> to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. <sup>8</sup> John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light.



<sup>19</sup> This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistant from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup> He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah."

<sup>21</sup> "Well then, who are you?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?"

"No," he replied.

"Are you the Prophet we are expecting?"

"No."

<sup>22</sup> "Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"I am a voice shouting in the wilderness,

'Clear the way for the LORD's coming!'

<sup>24</sup> Then the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup> asked him, "If you aren't the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?"

<sup>26</sup> John told them, "I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. <sup>27</sup> Though his ministry follows mine, I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal."

<sup>28</sup> This encounter took place in Bethany, an area east of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.



NLT

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

Third Candle - The Candle of Love

#### John The Baptist

**Leader:** *Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord*

**All:** *Thanks be to God*

**Leader:** Let us pray:

**All:** *Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love, so that we will be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. Amen*



Christian Love in Action

**17th December 2017**

**Third Sunday in Advent**

**Welcome to Worship**

9.30am

11.00am

4.30pm

6.30pm

**Advent Communion**, St Peter's, Thornbury

**Advent Communion**, St Mary's, Black Torrington

**Carol Service**, All Saints', Bradford

**Carol Service**, Holy Cross, Highampton



### Readings

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

### Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

"Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances,  
for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**The Mission Community:** Revd. Richard Freeman and the Bradworthy Benefice; Revd. Jane Lucas and Halwill Church



**Black Torrington Electoral Roll:** Sue Brice, Cyd Churchill, Barbara Clark, Mike Clark, Davina Dimmock-Wright, Richard Dimmock

**Those who are ill:** Bill Smithers, Maurice and Joan Thomas, Dorothy Chandler, Avis Radford

**The Benefice Carol Services,** that all who attend will feel the joy and peace of Christmas

**Our Benefice Schools,** that all children, staff and parents have a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year

**Palestinian and Syrian refugees** in Lebanon who are struggling to survive

**Rest in Peace:** John Henry Cornish; Ian Forbes Wilson.

**DECEMBER DIARY**

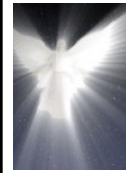
Mon 18th	8.00am	<b>Morning Prayer,</b> St Mary's, Black Torrington
Tues 19th	8.00am	<b>Prayer Breakfast,</b> The Rectory, Black Torrington
Wed 20th	8.00am 7.00pm	<b>Morning Prayer,</b> St Mary's Black Torrington <b>Advent Study Group,</b> Priestacott Barn, Bradford
Thurs 21st	2.30pm 7.00pm	<b>Carol Service,</b> Burdon Grange <b>Carol Service,</b> St Mary's, Black Torrington
Fri 22nd	6.30pm	<b>Carol Service,</b> St Peter's, Thornbury
Sun 24th		<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>
	9.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Said), All Saints', Bradford
	4.30pm	<b>Crib Service,</b> St Mary's, Black Torrington
	11.30pm	<b>Midnight Holy Communion,</b> Holy Cross, Highampton
Mon 25th		<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
	10.30am	<b>Benefice Family Christmas Holy Communion,</b> St Mary's, Black Torrington



The offering from the All Saints' and St Mary's Carol Services will go to **Embrace,** caring for vulnerable children in the Middle East

The Thornbury offering will be divided equally between Woodacott Chapel and **Embrace**

The offering on Christmas Day at St Mary's will go to the work of **The Bible Society** Spreading the Gospel throughout the world



**Advent Study Group—The Songs of Advent**

Wednesday - 7.00pm at Priestacott Barn, Bradford

This week we will be looking at the Song of the Angels.

Please come along and join in!

**To Think About**

**A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes...and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent.**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



**CAN YOU GET THERE?**

If you would like to attend the Christmas Services but are not sure how to get there, please ring any of the people below and they will help to arrange a lift for you!

*Morag Lobley: 281 800 Margaret & Martin Taylor: 281 327*

*David and Sue Whitehead: 261 777 Peter Roberts: 231 799*

*Wendy Stratton: 231 426*

**Reflection and Prayer for the Third Sunday in Advent**

We often suppress our impulse to reach out to someone with a loving hug, a kind word, or a helping hand. We are afraid of rejection. We are afraid to be vulnerable. We are afraid to go with God's flow.



*Lord, liberate us from our prison of fear.  
Help us to let your spirit work through us.  
Amen*

**Mission Community Prayer**

Loving God, receive our love, refresh our vision, renew our lives, so that together our Mission Community may witness to the truth of your gospel, build up our fellowship and deepen our commitment to grow in prayer. May our lives of discipleship draw others to follow Jesus Christ. Lead us into creative ways to serve the people of Devon with joy, to the glory of your name. Amen

