

Mark 1: 1-8
The Proclamation of John the Baptist

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

CHURCH OFFICE

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The church building is open from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mon. – Fri. except for holidays. For assistance outside of those times, please contact Avery Unruh. Please schedule all meetings & events at FMC through the church office.



FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

In Christ -
Making Disciples through
Loving Relationships.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020
“On the road to repentance”**

When the heart is moving in readiness, there is an openness to the “new”—perhaps the fresh thing God wants to do. To embrace the new requires a letting go of the past. Repentance means we are letting go and making space for God’s new work in us.

GATHERING

Gathering Music	Shirley Baltzer
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting	Holly Swartzendruber
Lighting the Advent Candle	
“Longing for Light,” vs 1-2	Gray 1
*Call to Worship (Adapted from Isaiah 40:3-5)	Holly

Listen! A voice cries out in the wilderness:

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!

*Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill made low.*

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!

*Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together.*

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!

*Prayer of Invocation		
Hymn	Comfort, comfort, O my people	No. 176
“Messengers on the Way”	Judy Harder and “Travelers”	
Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord		VT 219

SHARING

Offering		Shirley Baltzer
Sharing and Prayer		Pastor Tom
Hymn	Wait for the Lord	VT 228

LISTENING

Scripture		Mark 1:1-8
Message	Wilderness Repentance	Pastor Tom

RESPONDING

Confession and words of assurance

We hear John the Baptist's cry in the desert and are called to repentance

We will hear what God the Lord will say:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, but is patient, not wanting anyone to perish

Revive us again, that we may rejoice in you. Show us your unfailing love, and grant us your salvation.

Salvation is near to those who fear God.

We receive this gift. Help us to walk in your way.

Hymn	On Jordan's banks the Baptist's Cry	No. 183
Benediction		Pastor Tom
Postlude		

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL *who are gathered to worship, wherever you are, and whenever you are able to watch this service!*

First Mennonite leaders continue to carefully and prayerfully consider plans for Christmas Eve. If we are able to gather in the sanctuary, physical distancing and masks will be required. We also urge pre-arranged seating for all those considering attending. Judy Harder, along with Maura Wiebe are creating a seating chart. Families with children and youth plus leaders and musicians have already been assigned seats. We now urge all additional folks wanting to attend to phone or email Judy or Maura and give their contact information to be called about seating options. We respect changes in plans, even last minute changes. Do not hesitate to contact us with those tentative plans. We will be continuing to update information as it becomes available.