

2nd Week of Advent – Year A

The Christmas season is a time of giving gifts. – Nativity set – no Magi (they're coming)

Imagine that sometime in the next week a friend comes to you and knocks on the door.
You open the door and they're standing there with a big package in their hands.

What's the first thing you say? "For me"? - Of course it's for you!

So we take it and put it on a table "should I open it?" Of course!

But that's the key, for until we open a gift it remains nothing but potential.

John came to prepare the way for Jesus - the Prince of Peace.

He came and offered a gift of God - a gift that enables us to meet God more fully –

The gift of repentance

It's up to us to accept it, open it, and celebrate the joy of reconciliation. It IS joy!

With that said, notice what J the B says to the Pharisee and Sadducees:

“Give evidence you want to reform”

What would you say to that question?

NB – repentance is serious stuff, it implies reform/change

How do we “Prepare the way of the Lord”? Repentance Reform your lives

Repentance is something we live

Notice what John does NOT tell the people to do.

He doesn't say; get a camel leather wardrobe like mine.

He doesn't say; switch your diet for mine.

He doesn't say, grow a beard like mine.

He says, do something completely new –

Repent – prepare the way of the Lord INTO YOUR HEART

NOTE:

- *Redemption* is something God does – *Repentance* is something we do
- Jesus came to redeem us
- We repent of our sin and reform our lives
- The Good News is that Reconciliation, repentance, & Salvation are possible for everyone
- John the Baptist brings us a Christmas present - Repentance
 - When we open it – we meet Jesus
 - Waiting to forgive us
 - Waiting to redeem us
 - Waiting to take us – washed clean of our sin – to His Father
 - As His Christmas present