

The Rev. Susan Mullin '10
Associate Pastor, Creekside United Methodist Church

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Morning Psalms 50; 147:1-11
First Reading Isaiah 9:8-17
Second Reading 2 Peter 2:1-10a
Gospel Mark 1:1-8
Evening Psalms 53; 17

1The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; 3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”’, 4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And 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. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He 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. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

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Songs echo through my head as I read the first line of the Gospel passage today. Maybe you’ll recognize them, “Ain’t that good news...”; “No one mourns the wicked. Good News!...”; “Let’s start at the very beginning, a very good place to start...”. And while the music isn’t all scripturally inspired, I’m reminded of the importance of hearing the gospel message. Our eyes and ears help us to remember and internalize it.

The good news of Jesus Christ didn’t begin as the latest best seller. It began at the dawn of creation, was continued by the prophets and proclaimed by the disciples as a living and active word. It traveled by word of mouth and song.

So, how did you first hear about Jesus Christ, Son of God? This Advent season remember whatever your beginnings were—how you first heard the good news—and then consider what you’ve done with it. The good news is meant to be seen and heard, preached and sung, witnessed and treasured. It began a long time ago, and continues with us today.

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Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for giving us the good news of Jesus Christ. Thank you for making it more than a story for us to read. Help us live lives that proclaim it. Amen.