



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

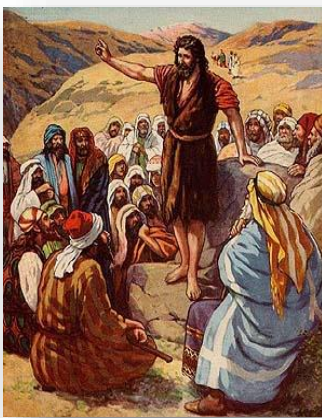
Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## 3rd Sunday of Advent -Year C

Violet

*'What must we do John?'*

Zephaniah 3:14-15 Psalm: Isaiah 12 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-16,18



*The crowds wanted to be ready to welcome the Messiah. John told them what to do. His words are just as important for us today, so that we too will be ready for Jesus to come.*

*Today's candle in the Advent wreath is pink – a symbol of joy as we look forward to Christmas. We might think of ways that we can bring some joy to someone else who might be sick or lonely at this time.*



### Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Third Sunday of Advent, starting with the Gospel. (You may choose to use or focus on one reading only, but remember that the Gospel may not be omitted.) Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline.

### GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-16, 18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" John told them, "If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else.

When tax collectors came to be baptised, they asked John, "Teacher, what should we do?" John told them, "Don't make people pay more than they owe."

Some soldiers asked him, "And what about us? What do we have to do?" John told them, "Don't force people to pay money to make you leave them alone. Be satisfied with your pay." Everyone became excited and wondered, "Could John be the Messiah?"

John said, "I am just baptising with water. But someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." In many different ways John preached the good news to the people.

## FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-15

Everyone in Jerusalem and Judah, celebrate and shout with all your heart.  
You won't be punished now.  
The Lord has made your enemies retreat.  
The Lord is the king of Israel, and he is at your side.  
You don't have to worry about any more troubles.

## PSALM

Isaiah 12

**Response:** Cry out with joy and gladness, for among you is the great and holy one of Israel.

I trust the Lord to save me, and I won't be afraid.  
My power and my strength come from the Lord God, and he has saved me. **R**

Our Lord, we are thankful, and we worship only you.  
We will tell the nations how glorious you are and what you have done. **R**

People of Jerusalem, celebrate and sing.  
The famous Lord God of Israel is here with you. **R**

## SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: always be glad because of the Lord! I will say it again: Be glad. Always be gentle with others. The Lord will soon be here. Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.



*Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)*  
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## *Background to the Readings for Leaders*

The readings today revisit the theme of promise and move it in a slightly different direction. They establish God's promise in a particular time and place. Then they characterise it as one of wondrous transformation.

To understand the prophecies of redemption in the Old Testament, it helps to imagine the Jewish people in captivity with little hope of seeing their homeland again. Baruch brings the good news of salvation to the people in exile in Babylon. He promises that they will return home to Jerusalem. The joy of the promise is linked with being clothed in God's own splendour at the end of time.

The Gospel describes the word of God coming to John in a very specific place and time. It is this word that defines John's mission. It is John's voice which calls the people of his time to a change of heart; to a new understanding of who they are and who God is.

The road being made straight and smooth is an important image for Luke. Jesus is often found on the road and the journey he makes to Jerusalem is at the heart of the Gospel.



## *Images from the Readings*

- *Celebrate and shout*
- *Thankful hearts*
- *Be glad*
- *Someone more powerful is going to come*
- *The call to change our lives*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

It is so easy to become distracted by all the fuss that goes on around us. The readings encourage us to try and not go away from God in our lives. Among all the things clamouring for your attention, how does God's word come to you?

Advent is a time of yearning for transformation, and of preparing for its arrival. It is a time to open ourselves so that God can accomplish much through ordinary human vessels. Transformation is often experienced by people who grieve. The fruit can be seen in our relationships with people whom our society marginalises.

The Gospel speaks of filling in valleys, smoothing hills, straightening the paths of the Lord. What are some of the things – relationships, past experiences, social pressures, present difficulties – that block the path of God in your own life? Do you need to make some changes? How might you go about smoothing out some of the things in your life that make it difficult for you to change?

What voice is leading you to a change of heart?

## *Reflecting on the Readings with the children*

Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline. With the 8-12 year olds: First, listen to the children's own responses to the Reading/s and then, if needed, use some of the discussion starters suggested.

With the 5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'.

## *Suggested Focus*

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held: Violet cloth, Lectionary, a candle, a bowl of water and the Advent Wreath



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## 3rd Sunday of Advent Year C

At a suitable moment after the Opening Rites, but before the First Reading is proclaimed, the children are presented with the Children's Lectionary and a candle and sent, with their ministers, to the place where they will celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word, with words of dismissal such as the following:

*INVITATION – Pōwhiri* I invite the children to join in the procession for their celebration of the Liturgy of the Word.

**To the Minister of the Word:** Receive this Book of Readings and proclaim God's Word faithfully to the children entrusted to your care.

Receive this candle as the light of Christ who is present in his Word.

*PROCESSION WITH THE BOOK OF READINGS – Te Kapa o te Pukapuka Tapu*

*WELCOME – Ko te whakatau*

**Leader:** O God, help us to remember anyone who is sick or lonely at this time of year. May joy and peace touch their lives at Christmas.

**R** Amen.

*First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-15*

*(if used)*

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki  
Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

*Psalm: Isaiah 12*

**Response:** Cry out with joy and gladness, for among you is the great and holy one of Israel.  
*(or another suitable response known by the children)*

*Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7*

*(if used)*

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki  
Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

D
G
Bm
A
D
G
Asus<sup>4</sup>
A

Advent: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Make a straight path for the Lord.\_\_\_\_\_

Bm
G
D
A
G
A
D

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. He is the hope for the world.

### Gospel: Luke 3:10-16, 18

**Minister of the Word:** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

**Children:** **Glory to you, O Lord / Korōria ki ā koe, e te Ariki**

**At the end of the Gospel:** The Gospel of the Lord

**Children:** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ / Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti.**

### REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH THE CHILDREN – Whai Whakaaro

**8-12 year olds:** Suggested Beginning: A good place to begin is with the question: What did you hear? Allow each child the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. Then begin a general discussion, building on these responses, perhaps using some prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.

- Who was the man who appeared in the desert? Tell the children a little about how John was specially chosen by God (Luke 1:5-17), and about John's family relationship with Jesus. Mention Mary's visit to Elizabeth.
- What did he tell the people to do?
- Show a map of the places John began proclaiming his message. How did John travel?
- What does John mean where he speaks about filling in valleys and straightening roads for the coming of the Lord?
- What can children do?



**5-7 year olds:** Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'

## *LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia*

Invite the children to join hands around the focus and light the first two purple candles and the pink candle on the advent wreath while praying:

“If we keep our eyes on the light,  
we need never feel afraid.  
Jesus will walk before us, guiding us through life  
towards the kingdom of heaven. Amen.”  
Children respond, “Come, Lord Jesus, Come”



## *PROFESSION OF FAITH – Panui o te Whakapono*

We believe in God the Father,  
who made the whole world.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God,  
who was born in Bethlehem  
and lived among us,  
who died on the cross for us,  
and rose from the dead.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit  
who brings life and love to us all.  
We believe that the Church is one family,  
and that one day  
we will share everlasting life  
with God in heaven.  
Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – *Te Īnoinga o te Hunga Whakapono*

(Here are some suggested intercessions; you are encouraged to compose your own according to the age and experience of the children)

**Leader:** With confidence let us pray to God for all our needs.

- For the Church, that all will have life through her gentle guidance  
Let us pray to the Lord  
Lord, hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all who are lonely, sick or homeless  
Let us pray to the Lord  
Lord, hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the needs of our neighbours, the people of the South Pacific  
Let us pray to the Lord  
Lord, hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For ourselves and our families, that we will always respect each other  
Let us pray to the Lord  
Lord, hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

**Leader:** God of mercy and peace, you are our only hope. Bless and protect us and those for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord

**All:** Amen

The children re-join the assembly before the prayers over the gifts.





# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C

## Chorus Play

Luke 3:10-18

What must we do John?

**People required:** Reader 1 and Reader 2, John.

**Note to leaders:** All children are required to repeat whatever **reader 1** says.

**Reader 1:** What must we do John, what must we do?

**Chorus:** **What must we do John, what must we do?**

**Reader 2:** To show our love for one another, tell us what we must do.

**Reader 1:** What must we do John, what must we do?

**Chorus:** **What must we do John, what must we do?**

**John:** If you have two coats, or two pairs of shoes or two blankets ...

**Reader 1:** Give to one who has none.

**Chorus:** **Give to one who has none.**

**John:** If you have spare food ...

**Reader 1:** **Give to one who has none.**

**Chorus:** **Give to one who has none.**

**Reader 2:** There were also some tax collectors who asked John ...

**Reader 1:** What must we do John, what must we do?

**Chorus:** **What must we do John, what must we do?**

**Reader 2:** To show our love for one another, tell us what we must do.

**John:** Take what is required and take no more!

**Reader 1:** Take what is yours, that's it!

**Chorus:** **Take what is yours, that's it!**

**Reader 2:** Some soldiers came to John ...

**Reader 1:** What must we do John, what must we do?

**Chorus:** **What must we do John, what must we do?**

**Reader 2:** To show our love for one another, tell us what we must do?

**John:** Do your job honestly and be happy with your pay!

**Reader 1:** Be honest and fair, don't complain!

**Chorus:** **Be honest and fair, don't complain!**

**Reader 2:** The people were beginning to wonder if John might be the Messiah!

**John:** I baptise with water but there is someone ...

**Reader 1:** Someone is coming!

**Chorus:** **Someone is coming!**

**John:** There is someone who is greater than I am!

**Reader 1:** Much greater!

**Chorus:** **Much greater!**

**John:** And more powerful!

**Reader 1:** Much more powerful!

**Chorus:** **Much more powerful!**

**John:** He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire!

**Reader 2:** Someone much more powerful will baptise us with the Holy Spirit and with fire!

**John:** And this IS the good news of Jesus!

**Reader 1:** Amen, alleluia !

**Chorus:** **Amen, alleluia!**



*From 'Just Imagine 4, Many Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, [www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au](http://www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au). Available from the Liturgy Centre.*