



# ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH

DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF ADVENT



Based on Luke 1:68-79

## John's birth prepares the way for Jesus

Last week we began the preparation of our Christmas celebration in a few weeks time. The first Advent candle was lit, the decorations have been put in the church and our Family Christmas Eve gathering plan continues. This week we will light the second candle. All these things are happening because we are preparing for the wonderful event of Christmas Day – the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The school year is finishing, Christmas cards are being coloured in and presents for teachers and friends are being finished and handed out. What a loving and giving time of the year it is!

What we are all doing at the moment is *preparing the way* for our Christmas activities and what a joyful time we are having. For us to enjoy our time of Christmas preparation doesn't depend on anything other than wanting to share the love of Jesus with everyone.

Luke, is telling the story of Elizabeth and Zechariah who were preparing for the birth of their own little baby boy. Before Jesus was born, Elizabeth's baby was born and they called him John. When John grew up, he would prepare the way for Jesus to start his work amongst God's people after John baptized Jesus.

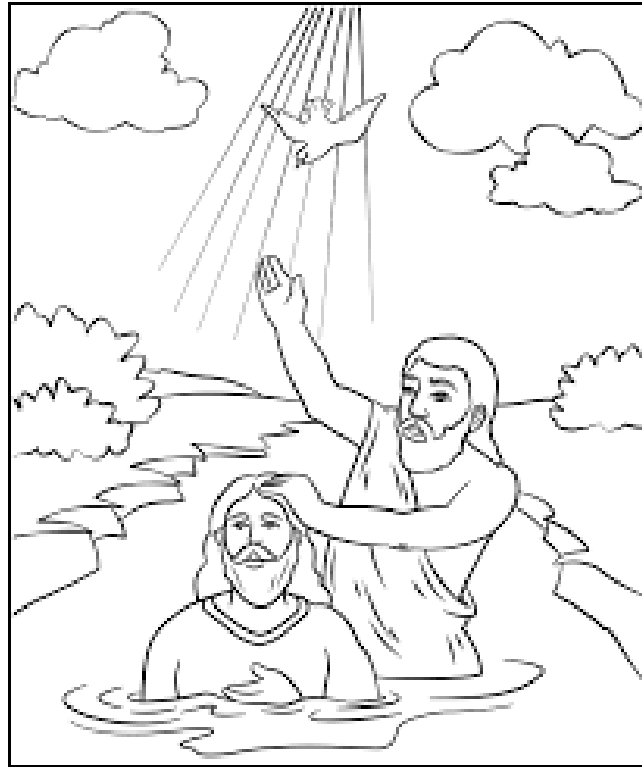
After Jesus' baptism he would come to be known as the one who gives light to everyone who feels sad, lonely, Jesus is the Saviour of the world, Jesus forgives our sins, and Jesus lets our lights shine really bright. Jesus showed us how we can help others and how we can encourage peace around the world. One thing Jesus did for us was make a way for us to go to heaven just like God promised.



**Dear God,** thank You sending John to prepare the world for coming of Jesus, our Saviour, friend and teacher. Thank you for helping us to know that we never have to do things on our own, that Jesus has prepared the for us. In Jesus' name, amen.



# Find the 5 differences between the two pictures



## John the Baptist

Lived in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Wore clothing made of

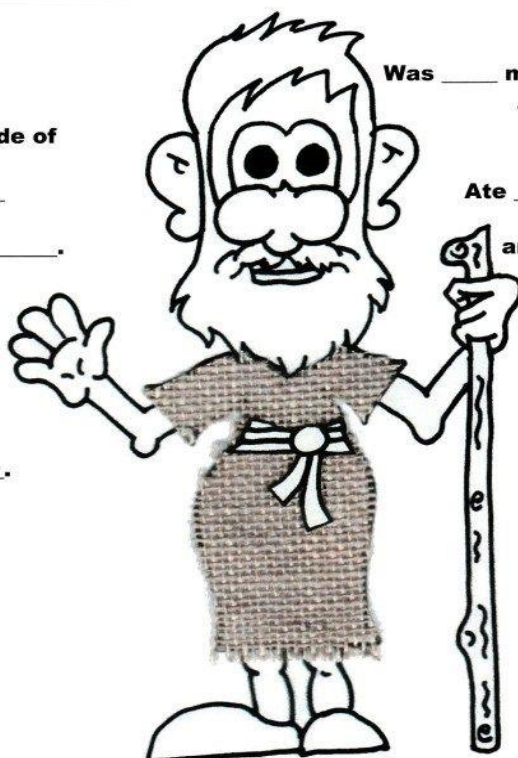
\_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_.

Prepared

the way for

\_\_\_\_\_.



Was \_\_\_\_\_ months older than  
Jesus.

Ate \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_.

If you do not know the answer read Luke 1:26-27, 35-36, 76 and Matthew 3:1, 4 to fill in the blanks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paAlSGnlqFE> –

‘Light One Candle for Hope’

