



**“THE VOICE OF HOPE”**

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CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

**Where are you looking for hope in your life?**

Matthew 3:1–12: *Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup> For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, “THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’” <sup>4</sup> Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; <sup>6</sup> and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; <sup>9</sup> and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (NASB)*

**The Unexpected Hope:**

**I. The unexpected \_\_\_\_\_**

Matthew 3:1–3 *Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea...this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, “THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’” (NASB)*

**II. The unexpected \_\_\_\_\_**

Matthew 3:4 *Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. (NASB)*

**III. The unexpected \_\_\_\_\_**

Matthew 3:5 *Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan... (NASB)*

**IV. The unexpected \_\_\_\_\_**

Matthew 3:6 *...and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. (NASB)*

**V. The unexpected \_\_\_\_\_**

Matthew 3:7–10 *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; <sup>9</sup> and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (NASB)*

## VI. The unexpected \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 3:11–12 *As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.<sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (NASB)*

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_



### DOGGY BAG

Something to take home and chew on!

1. Where do you look for hope?
2. How do you deal with your anxiety and despair in life?
3. How does the incarnation answer your deepest fears?
4. What could you do this Advent Season to focus your hope on Jesus?

### Take a step in faith this week:

1. **Let us know you are here today.** Fill out a Connection Card every Sunday through either the Christ Church app or the Connection Card tab in the top menu bar of the Online Campus Platform ([LIVE.CHURCHURCHVA.ORG](https://live.christchurchva.org)).
2. **Check out our online bulletin each Sunday.** Use the Christ Church app, or the Resources tab\* in the top menu bar of the Online Campus Platform, to access the most current edition each week.  
**TODAY'S EDITION:** <https://conta.cc/3Vvr4b2>
3. Sign up to **Read Through the Bible** with Christ Church in 2023. Find the link and info in the online bulletin.
4. Come and bring the whole family to our **Wednesday Night Dinner (5:30pm) & Discipleship (6:30pm)**. Join Pastor Todd's Apply Group in Room 160. Email him for info at [pastortodd@christchurchva.org](mailto:pastortodd@christchurchva.org).
5. Join in discipleship through a small group or class—not all of them are on Wednesday nights! Contact Pam Charbonneau at [pcharbonneau@christchurchva.org](mailto:pcharbonneau@christchurchva.org) to learn how.
6. **Join us for Midday Prayer** each weekday at noon on our Online Campus Platform ([LIVE.CHURCHURCHVA.ORG](https://live.christchurchva.org)).

\*Quick link to Connection Resources: [CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/CONNECT-WITH-US](https://christchurchva.org/connect-with-us)

**ANSWER KEY:**

I. **MESSENGER**

II. **APPROACH**

III. **AUDIENCE**

IV. **RESPONSE**

V. **WARNING**

VI. **PROMISE**

Main point: **CHRISTMAS IS HOPE WHERE YOU LEAST EXPECT IT.**