



ECMN+

Advent Spiritual Practices 2023

Dwelling in Scripture & Using Our Imagination

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

What words, images, and phrases in this passage capture your imagination?

What question/s does this passage raise for you?

Close your eyes and picture this scene. Place yourself in it. Smell the scent of the crowds, feel the heat on your back, sense the crowds pressing in on you as they try to listen to John and to get a glimpse of him baptizing people in the Jordan river.

Who are you in this story?

- Someone crying out in the wilderness?
- Someone desiring baptism and a new beginning?
- An onlooker curious about why so many people are gathering to see John.
- A person who is cautiously hopeful.
- A skeptic in the crowd.