

Week 3: Jubilee joy

Opening prayer

Christ Jesus, bringer of Good News,
liberator of captives and all who are oppressed,
restorer of sight,
guide us on our journey through life
and lead us all to be signs of hope in our world. Amen.
(Light the third candle in your Advent wreath)

Scripture (Matthew 11:2-11)

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

Behold I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Reflection

When John the Baptist asks whether Christ is the one for who he has been waiting, Jesus replies with these words that echo the prophet Isaiah. He is the one who will help the blind to see and who will bring good news to the poor.

Jesus spells out his mission here and it is the message of Jubilee – a time of renewal and of freedom. A time when debts will be cancelled, the land can rest and people are freed from oppression. It is a message to which we have been called to pay particular attention in this Jubilee Year 2025. We have all been called to be pilgrims of hope and to consider how we can create a world of justice, peace and love.

Throughout the past year, so many people have answered this Jubilee call. In parishes, schools and on their own, young and old have taken part in pilgrimages, raised their voices to demand debt cancellation and fundraised to support CAFOD's work alongside the poorest people in our world.

As the Jubilee Year draws to a close, we take this moment to reflect on all that has been achieved. We commit once more to participating in Christ's mission, which seeks the flourishing of all.

For discussion

- + What have you done throughout this Jubilee Year to be a pilgrim of hope, to renew your faith and to bring good news to those who are poor?
You could take part in our Jubilee journalling resource for a moment of personal reflection, by watching the following video. You will need paper and pen to take part.
<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/jubilee-journalling>
- + What more could you do to spread Christ's message of healing, mercy and justice in the coming year?
- + How can you continue to make the joy of the Jubilee a reality in your life/community/the world?

Closing prayer

Christ, our Redeemer,
we wait in hope for your coming.
May we be found ready at all times,
alert to the needs of others
and eager to answer your call.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Help us to see your light
reflected throughout creation, and

shining in all our brothers and sisters
wonderfully made in your image.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Fill us with the warmth of your love
and guide us in the way of peace
so that together we may strive
for a future free from war.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Lead us to work together
to share the warmth of your mercy
and build a better world
lit by your compassion for all.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Amen.