

IS IT TIME YET?

Saturday, December 16, 2017

John 1:6-8; There was a man named John who was sent by God. He came to tell people about the Light. Through him all people could hear about the Light and believe. John was not the Light, but he came to tell people about the Light. (International Children's Bible)

"Is it time yet?"

"I can hardly wait!"

Anticipation. There's plenty of it in Advent! It's exciting to be looking forward to something. When John the Baptist was ministering, people had been waiting forever (so it seemed) for the Messiah. What a privilege it was for John to prepare the way for, then baptize, Jesus the Son of God! John had known Jesus since before birth, when he leaped in Elizabeth's womb at the presence of Mary and the yet-to-be-born Jesus. Now 30 years later John paved the way from anticipation to proclamation. The time was upon them.

One of my favorite books is *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson. (It's also a movie – 5 stars from me!) A family of wayward children work themselves into a church's traditional Christmas pageant, changing their own lives and the church's outlook! Gladys Herdman, "with her skinny legs and her dirty sneakers sticking out from under her robe," portrays the Angel of the Lord: "*Hey! Unto you a Child is born*, she hollered, as if it was, for sure, the best news in the world."

We have that privilege – and responsibility – to proclaim that Jesus is our Savior. What a joy to know this and to share this precious news. We can openly tell folks about Jesus. We can sing it like the angels. We can show it by the way we live. Will others see the Light in our eyes, our words, and our deeds? There was a lady in our Willow Chapel congregation who absolutely glowed with the Light of God's love, especially when she received communion. May we, too, reflect God's Light so well that others may feel the warmth of His Love and Goodness. In this holy Advent season, let's step up our sharing. Let's ask God to work through us with His Joy and Love so that others may know the Light and believe. *Hey! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Prayer: Dear God our Father, thank you for your Son Jesus, the Light of the world. We are ever so grateful for the privilege of sharing your love with everyone. Help us to do it lovingly, with enthusiasm and joyful smiles, shining with your brilliant Light. In Jesus' name we ask for your favor and blessing. Amen.

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