

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Sermon Series: “The Weary World Rejoices.”  
(Advent, 2025)  
“A Spiritual U-Turn.” *Matthew 3.1-12.*

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## Are You Ready?

### John the Baptizer...Preparing the Way

*Malachi 4.5 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.*

*Isaiah 40.3 A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*Matthew 3.1,3 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea....<sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”*

## Being Ready by...

### Repenting

*Matthew 3.2 ... “**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

μετανοέω (*metanoō*): “To change one’s mind” (Direction)

*John 15.5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

### Receiving

*Matthew 3.11-12 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.<sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”*

*Isaiah 11.1-2 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.<sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*