

# SERMON NOTES

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C \* December 12, 2021

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Malachi 3:1-4 \* Canticle 16, BCP 92 \* Philippians 1:3-11 \* Luke 3:1-6

## 4 Promises and a Prayer

For [God] will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; **he will purify [you] and refine [you] like gold and silver.** Malachi 3:2-3

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**  
Canticle 16, The Song of Zechariah, Luke 1:68-79, BCP 92

I am confident of this, that **he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.** Philippians 1:6

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.  
<sup>5</sup> **Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.**  
<sup>6</sup> **And all people will see God's salvation.**"

Luke 3:4-6 quoting Isaiah 40:4-5

PRAY: Please, Lord:

- ✦ Purify and refine me.
- ✦ Set me free from my enemies – especially the one within me.
- ✦ Continue the good work you began in me.
- ✦ And smooth my way to you.

## Next Week's Lessons

Zephaniah 3:14-20 \* Canticle 9, BCP 86 \* Philippians 4:4-7 \*  
Luke 3:7-18

# Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation with your family, small group, or a friend

1. What is something God has purified or refined in your life?
2. What is an enemy in your life, from which God has set you free?
3. What is a good work God has begun in you? How is he continuing it? And what do you hope he does in you next?
4. What is one way you easily and frequently experience God's goodness, presence, grace, or love?
5. PRAY:
  - ✦ Thanking God for the good works he has begun in you.
  - ✦ For God to do that next step you described in #3 above.
  - ✦ For any needs in your group.