

# SERMON NOTES

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C \* December 15, 2024

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

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

Luke 3:7-18

## The Holy Spirit and FIRE

John the Baptist says: "If you have two coats, give one away. And do the same with your food." Luke 3:11

When asked if he's the Messiah, John answered, "Nope! Not me! I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Luke 3:16-17

Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit and fire to:

✦ T\_\_\_\_\_ our frozen hearts.

✦ W\_\_\_\_\_ us up to God and each other.

✦ Put F\_\_\_\_\_ in our bellies.

✦ B\_\_\_\_\_ away the impurities and trash that pollute us.

✦ Turn us into L\_\_\_\_\_ ...

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before people that they see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

✦ Turn us into lights, so his fire S\_\_\_\_\_ from US into the people and the world around us.

## Next Week's Lessons

Micah 5:2-5a \* Canticle 15, BCP 91\* Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-55

# Chewing on Our Daily Bread

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

1. What's your attitude toward fire? Do you find it fun? Frightening? Or merely functional? Why?
2. In your relationship with God, would you say you are more on the Cold or the Hot end of the spectrum? Why? And if you're Cold, what might it take to warm you up?
3. What in life are you passionate about? How does that passion show?
4. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before people that they see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). What is one thing you do that reflects the light of Jesus to people around you?
5. PRAY:
  - ✦ Thanking God for that passion you described in #3 above.
  - ✦ For God to shine more of his light and share more of his love through you with others.
  - ✦ For any needs in your group.