

## Getting Started

1. What are some of your favorite Christmas traditions?
2. Have you started any new traditions? Is there anything you would like to add to the Advent season?
3. Do you find yourself getting stressed out as you get closer to Christmas?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

## Digging Deeper

### 5. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 69:

**Q. How does holy baptism remind and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross benefits you personally?**

A. In this way: Christ instituted this outward washing<sup>1</sup> and with it promised that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly his blood and his Spirit wash away my soul's impurity, that is, all my sins.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Acts 2:38 <sup>2</sup> Matt. 3:11; Rom. 6:3-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

John the Baptist was called that because he called people to repentance and then he baptized them. The baptism that Jesus instituted was different. What does our baptism mean?

6. The announcement that Elizabeth was barren and that she and Zechariah were advanced in years foreshadows what is about to come. This happens several times in scripture: Gen. 18, Gen. 25, Gen. 30, and 1 Sam. 1-2. What similarities do you find in these accounts?
7. Read 1 Chronicles 23 and 24. These chapters outline the structure used for the priests. Why were they broken up like this? Take note of 1 Chronicles 24:10, what stands out?
8. Read Matthew 10:1-10. Fear is often the first reaction when people speak to angels. Why?

## Application

9. Christmas can often become a time where we think about anything other than God simply because we try to do too much. What is God saying to you this Advent season? In what unexpected way is God ready to work through you?

# Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · December 3, 2017

## Advent

### “Faith through Uncertainty”

“And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.”

Luke 1:10-12

- God \_\_\_\_\_ up in the \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- Even the \_\_\_\_\_ can be \_\_\_\_\_ of how God is \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- Even amid our \_\_\_\_\_, God is \_\_\_\_\_.

Topics: Uncertainty, fear, faith