

LET TODAY'S VOICES CRYING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS ...

by Vic Berecz

The text for last Sunday's sermon was the story of John the Baptist "crying out in the wilderness" imploring us to "repent." Pastor Mark explained that the word repent means "to change for the better." And, he asked "Who is crying out in *today's* wilderness?" about the need for repentance ... the need for change, the need for improvement.

Wilderness? Absolutely. We live in a dark age with lots of scary stuff happening ... it is just as wild out here as it was in a medieval forest! Only in a different way. And, I'm sure we can all agree on the need for changing things for the better ... we need peace as never before ... we need education as never before ... we need to protect our Earth as never before ... we need civility as never before.

I'm not addressing these thoughts only to my fellow Christians. Whatever your religious preference (or, even if you have none) ... whatever your political persuasion, I am convinced we can all agree on a few basic universal precepts ... and summing them all up are the words spoken by a young Jew a long time ago. Yes, we need to hear the message brought to us by Jesus of Nazareth ... *Love Your Neighbor* ... as never before.

In this *Advent* and *Christmas* season (OK, I'll be inclusive and a bit P.C. and say *holiday season*) we all need to start down a path that will lead to changes for the better ... in our personal and family lives, in our national struggles, and in our ever-shrinking world community. We can do that through conversation, through blogs, through sermons, in the voting booth ... everywhere we go, in everything we do. Let me start by wishing each of you a joyous holiday season, and a New Year filled with repentance ... change for the better.

As Pastor Mark noted, and I heartily concur, today's voices crying out for change must ...

... BE OURS!

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