

Fanfare for a King

Theme

Announcing the coming King

Object

A trumpet, a shofar, or a recording of a fanfare and the advent wreath.

Scripture

As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.'" Luke 3:4-6 (NIV)

(If possible, begin by having someone play a fanfare on the trumpet or a blast on the shofar. If that is not possible, just show the children a trumpet or shofar or play a fanfare on a recording and adapt the sermon to fit your situation.)

Wow! That was exciting, wasn't it? That exciting piece played on the trumpet is called a fanfare. A fanfare is a loud, short piece of music that is usually played on a trumpet to announce the arrival of someone important. For example, a trumpet fanfare is often played to announce the arrival of a king, queen or president.

The trumpet fanfare has been used to announce the coming of a king for many, many years. It was even used in Bible times! The Bible tells us that when Solomon was crowned as the King of Israel they blew the trumpet and shouted, "God save king Solomon." (1 Kings 1:34)

The word fanfare is also sometimes used to describe any showy celebration surrounding a special event. There is always a lot of fanfare surrounding the coming of a king, isn't there? Well, not always. There wasn't much fanfare surrounding the coming of Jesus. There were no trumpets and no one shouting, "God save the king!" The Bible tells us that there was only a man named John who was like a voice calling out in the desert saying, "Prepare the way for the Lord."

That wasn't much of a fanfare for a king, and it sure wasn't much of a fanfare for the King of Kings. As we look forward to the celebration of his birth, we do it with great fanfare. (Have trumpeter play the fanfare again.)

Today we light the second candle on our Advent wreath. We light the candle of peace -- for our King -- the Prince of Peace.

Heavenly Father, we look forward to celebrating the birthday of our King, Jesus. He is King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and the Prince of Peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sermon Title: "Fanfare for a King"

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:1-6

CROWNING RELAY:

Divide the children into two teams to run a relay race. The children will run to the teacher or a designated leader one at a time and say "KING ME." A paper crown will be placed on the child's head and the child will then go back to the group and sit down. Then the next player will come until everyone on the team has been crowned and is sitting to listen to today's Bible lesson.

HIDE THE CROWN:

This game is played similar to HIDE and SEEK. The teacher will hide a crown and the children must find it! The teacher can say "HOT" or "COLD" to let them know if they're getting closer or farther away from the crown. The children will expect the crown to be big and standing up, but the teacher could have it be cut from a piece of paper or cardboard and folded for hiding under or between something, as well. If the crown is found, the teacher could hide it once again as the children cover their eyes.

CROWN DECORATING:

The children can take the crown that the teacher gave them on our first activity today and decorate their crown with glitter, sequins and colored markers. Have them write words from today's Bible verses on their crown.

BIBLE VERSE CROWN:

The teacher will have a crown cut out and placed on the wall. Let the children take turns writing words from today's Bible verse on the crown. Then the group will recite the Bible verse.

TRUMPET SOUNDS:

Provide the children with empty long paper towel rolls. The children will wrap them with shiny silver or gold paper. The Children will then march around a designated area and blow their "trumpets" to announce the good news of Jesus's birth. They can speak words from today's lesson or sing songs.

FLAG FLYING:

Give the children a piece of felt or other material to create a flag or banner. They will decorate their flags with fabric pens or paints, using words such as JESUS THE KING, or CELEBRATING JESUS. A thin wooden dowel can be glued or taped to the flag so that they can wave it.

FANFARE FOR THE KING:

The children can take their decorated crowns and flags and march to some Christmas music that has the word KING, to celebrate Jesus' birth! ("Joy to the World" would be a good one.) Tell them to raise their flags HIGH and to sing to the KING and to stand tall and Kingly!!

SING A SONG:

Sing CHRISTMAS SONGS with the word KING or Jesus' birthday in the words of the song. Each time the word KING or birthday appear, the children can raise their flags and wave, or blow their trumpets! (Tell children that trumpets let out BIG sounds for this special celebration!)

SHARE A SNACK:

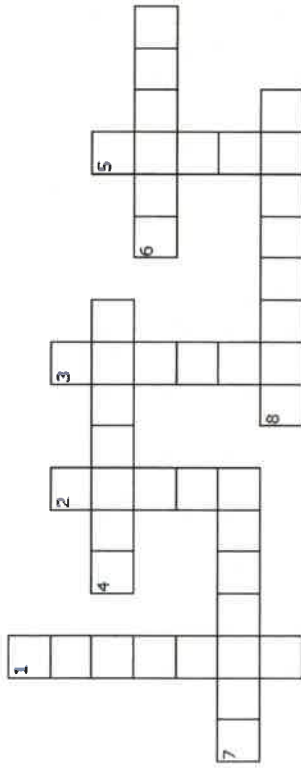
A CHRISTMAS TREE (triangular shaped) cake, with toothpick flags that the teacher has prepared before class time, and candles (if desired) for the children to blow out. As the cake is eaten or as candles are blown out, let the children tell something that THEY would like to give to Jesus for HIS birthday celebration. Let the children know that the best gift of all is to give him your heart.

Song: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

[Words and Music \(pdf\)](#)

[MP3 Piano accompaniment Track \(right click to save to your computer\)](#)

Crossword Puzzle



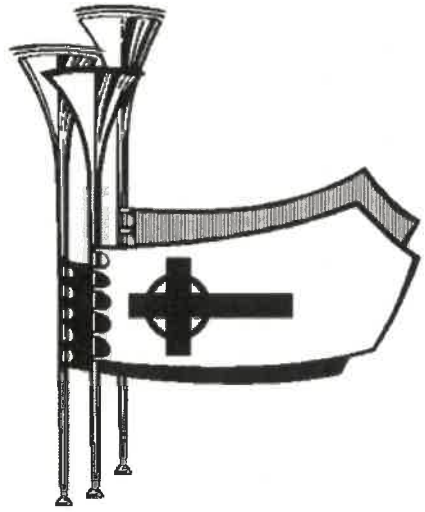
ACROSS

- Having bends, curves, or angles.
- Having a surface free from roughness
- To grant a pardon for sin.
- Having no bends or curves.

DOWN

- To make things one oneself ready.
- What we use to speak.
- To turn away from one's sins.
- Having an irregular, course, or shaggy surface

STRAIGHT	VOICE	FORGIVE	PREPARE
REPENT	ROUGH	SMOOTH	CROOKED



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Children's Worship Bulletin

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Luke 3:1-6

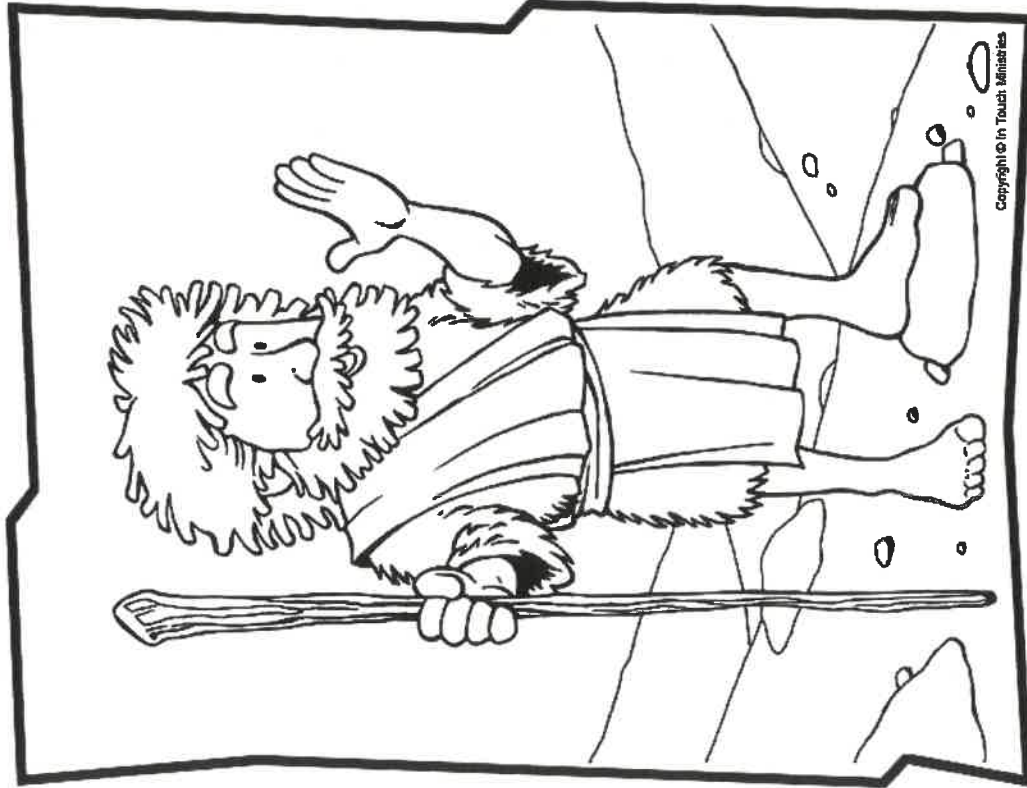
Word Search Puzzle

J B J W W F I U R G D B I H K
 J O E L U R C O Z U C Z Y N F
 B T R P Z V A V P Z E P M T U
 A Z C D P W P F O R E P E N T
 P S J R A R E R Z I Q E I V A
 T G N Y O N E E E I C B H A P
 I A G B K O V P O A A E S L V
 S I W Y V I K H A L C G D L B
 M K X V G E Q E O R E H R E T
 D R Q R S I N S D S E S I Y T
 N E O Q S T R A I G H T R N A
 K F S U E M L Y S A X Q O X G
 B X O E G C A L L I N G O G F
 N M O I R H Z Q O E M L R N R
 O K E C H T M M S M O O T H W

VOICE	ROUGH	FORGIVE	PREACHING	STRAIGHT
JORDAN	VALLEY	DESERT	REPENT	SINS
PREPARE	CROOKED	SMOOTH	BAPTISM	CALLING

Your Church Name Here
Anytown, Anywhere

Coloring Page



JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4

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Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

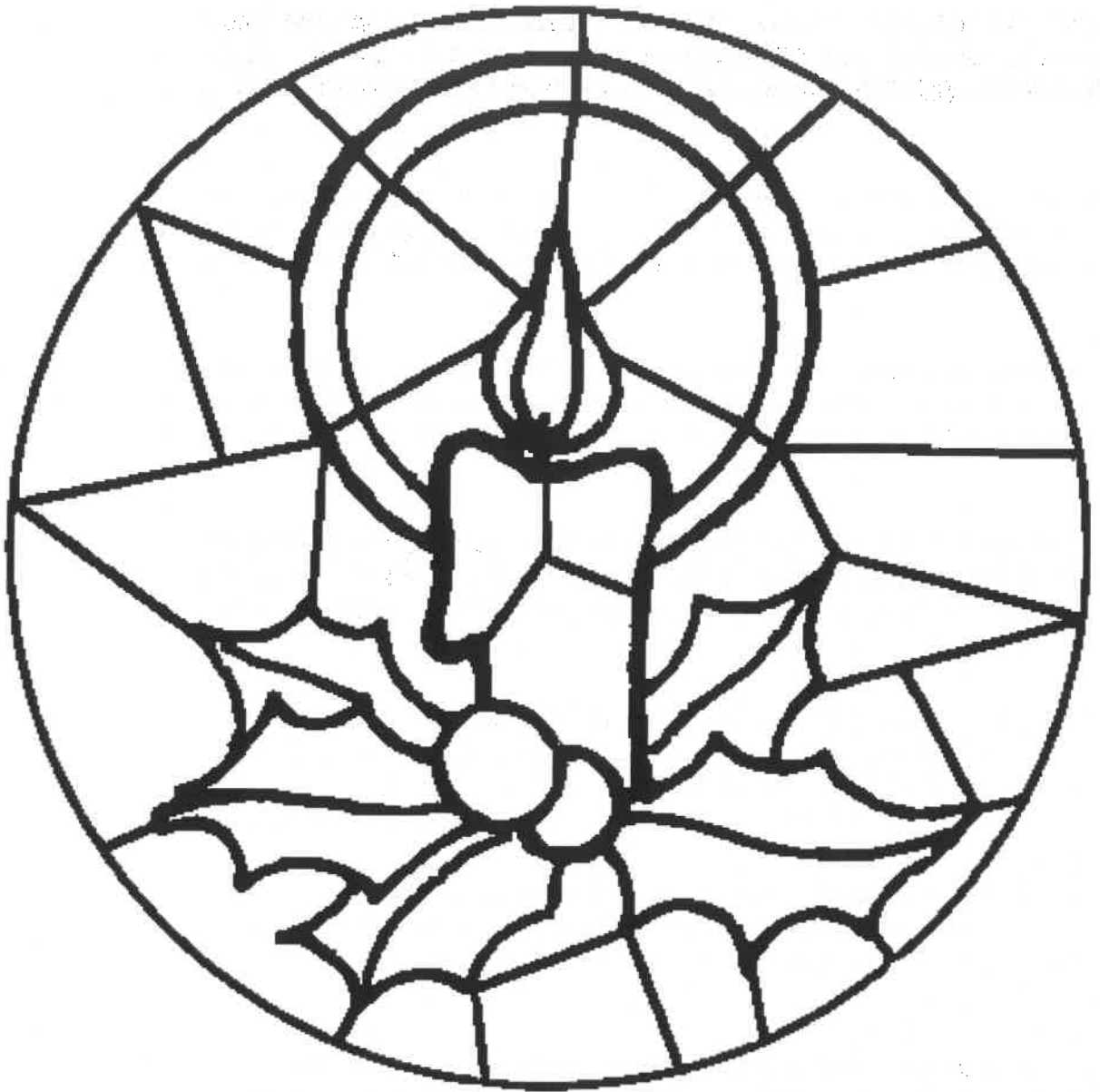
C	G	Z	T	R	E	I	S	O	J	L	X	U	H	M	W	P	N	A	F	D	B	Y	Q	K	V
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 22-19-17-4-7-8-15 _____
- 26-9-7-1-6 _____
- 21-6-8-6-5-4 _____
- 17-5-6-17-19-5-6 _____
- 1-5-9-9-25-6-21 _____
- 8-4-5-19-7-2-14-4 _____
- 5-9-13-2-14 _____
- 8-15-9-9-4-14 _____

SMOOTH	STRAIGHT	BAPTISM	DESERT
PREPARE	VOICE	CROOKED	ROUGH



*Preparing for the
Christmas Season*



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.

Romans 15:13