

# Advent 2022

## This Sucks, But I'll Be Okay

December 11, 2022

How would you grade your ability to weather disappointment?

John the Baptist: a man with a large brand, a celebrity status, and a lot of credibility.

John the Baptist: Jesus' most credible and loudest supporter.

John the Baptist: in prison, facing death, and suddenly deeply confused by if not disappointed in JESUS!?

Ever endorsed the wrong person?

Now what?

A new kind of waiting?

Can you think of a time you were deeply disappointed with God?

Can you think of a time when despite your disappointment, after days, weeks months or even years, God proved faithful?

How might that be your situation right now?

Matthew 11v2-11

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' 4 Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Sunday, December 4, 2022:** Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11  
**Monday, December 12, 2022:** Psalm 42; Isaiah 29:17-24; Acts 5:12-16  
**Tuesday, December 13, 2022:** Psalm 42; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Jude 1:17-25  
**Wednesday, December 14, 2022:** Psalm 42; Zechariah 8:1-17; Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34  
**Thursday, December 15, 2022:** Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:1-17; Galatians 3:23-29  
**Friday, December 16, 2022:** Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:18-22; Galatians 4:1-7  
**Saturday, December 17, 2022:** Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:23-29; John 3:31-36

**Link to Daily Readings:** <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=A>

Another option is to incorporate the readings into your Google Calendar or iCal. To do so, visit [webcal://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/feeds/lectionary-daily.ics](http://webcal://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/feeds/lectionary-daily.ics) and follow the provided instructions.

**Songs:** Sister Winter (Preview), Your Love is Strong, O Come Emmanuel, Baby Son, Seasons, From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable  
**Looking to Connect?:** One of the staff would love to meet for a walk, on the phone, or for a beverage. To schedule a time please visit our website and click on the "Meet with Staff" button on the home page.