



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

### *December 9, 2018*

#### **Every Valley Shall Be Filled**

Bible Reference: Luke 3:1-20

This season is supposed to be super amazing. We are supposed to be happy, but that is not always the case. Many people face lows during the holidays, whether it is depression or that things just don't live up to the hype. Christmas can be a joyful time, but it is also a time when many feel depressed and don't really want to talk about it.

John the Baptist's proclamation in this week's reading is powerful. He quotes the prophet Isaiah saying every valley shall be filled. Whether we face depression or not, we all have valleys in our lives. We have places that we don't want to talk about which leave us feeling low and depressed. There is no escaping those valleys in this world, but Jesus came to fill our valleys and bring us from low back to high. Jesus came to lift people up! Jesus can make murders into pastors, drug dealers into grace givers, and racists into savists. Ok, I made that word up. (I'm using my artistic liberty and creative license here. I looked long and hard to find a word that rhymes with racists and still conveys the right meaning but couldn't find one.) The point being, the coming of Jesus reminds us He fills all valleys and can change all people from low to high.

In this season of Advent we prepare for the Lord's coming. John the Baptist prepared the people for who Jesus was. Jesus wasn't just another prophet, priest, or king; He was all three! And He came to fill the valleys of our life! Let us continue to prepare for the Lord's coming.

*God's Peace,*  
*Pastor Will*