



United Methodist Church of Vista  
490 South Melrose Drive  
(760) 726-0442



Sunday, December 17, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Rev. Dr. Lee Ann Shaw, Lead Pastor

“Pointing to the Light”

Scriptures: [Isaiah 61:1-4](#), [8-11](#) and [John 1:6-8](#), [19-28](#) (NRSV)



*Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw  
Lead Pastor*

### [Isaiah 61:1-4](#)

- <sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
- <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,
- <sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of his splendor.
- <sup>4</sup> They will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and restore the places long devastated;  
they will renew the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations.



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### [Isaiah 61:8-11](#)

<sup>8</sup> “For I, the LORD, love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing.  
In my faithfulness I will reward my people  
and make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their descendants will be known among the nations  
and their offspring among the peoples.  
All who see them will acknowledge  
that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”

<sup>10</sup> I delight greatly in the LORD;  
my soul rejoices in my God.  
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation  
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,  
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the sprout come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness  
and praise spring up before all nations. ([top](#))



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### [John 1:6-8](#)

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

<sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

<sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

### [John 1:19-28](#)

<sup>19</sup> Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

<sup>20</sup> He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

<sup>21</sup> They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup> Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

<sup>24</sup> Now the Pharisees who had been sent

<sup>25</sup> questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup> "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know.

<sup>27</sup> He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

<sup>28</sup> This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing. ([top](#))