

**Worship Date** December 6, 2009

**Worship Theme** Prepare the Way  
Second Sunday of Advent (Hope)

**Scripture Reference** Malachi 3:1–4, Luke 3:1–6/3:1–11 IV

**Materials** FedEx envelope, pictures of delivery workers

Does anybody recognize this envelope? (Show the FedEx envelope.) It's the way important messages are delivered, right? How are the delivery people dressed? (Show pictures of the FedEx, UPS, and letter carrier.) They are our messengers. When they leave something in our mailbox or at our door, we know something important might be in the envelopes.

God has messengers too. They have been called prophets. Can you name any of them? How about Abraham, Moses, and Isaiah? They all foretold God's promises. Do you think they wore uniforms? I don't think so either. Long ago the people of God waited and waited for the Messiah. . They were looking for someone to save them from bad kings, so God's messengers gave the people hope.

The prophet Malachi said that the Lord will suddenly come to his temple. We think he was talking about Jesus. John the Baptist had the special job of preparing the people to accept Jesus teachings by baptizing them and asking them to be sorry for all the bad things they had ever done.

So this Christmas season, when you get packages and letters, or when you see a messenger, remember that God keeps his promises. Christmas is a special time for children, and I know you might be hoping for something in a package just for you. Remember to prepare your heart and ask forgiveness for anything bad you have done. Be ready for Jesus.

Let's pray. Dear God, help us hear your messengers today and prepare our hearts as we hope for Jesus. Amen.

Photo References: [http://www.ehow.com/about\\_4809166\\_fedex-careers.html](http://www.ehow.com/about_4809166_fedex-careers.html)  
<http://www.zimbio.com/pictures/WvYAYODgvSv/Postal+Service+Considers+Cutting+Mail+Delivery>  
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