

Reflection: Who are you in God's eyes?
3 Advent, Year B
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Throughout our Advent Gospel readings, John the Baptist has been the one to consistently point to Jesus. The messenger is clear about his own identity, as one preparing the way for Jesus.

In today's reading from Matthew, Jesus seems clear about his own identity: one who gives sight to the blind, heals the sick, raises the dead and brings good news to the poor. The identity of John the Baptist and Jesus seem clear. They both seem to know who they are!

And who are you? A father? A teacher? A singer? A bagpipe player? A Republican, a Democrat, a Cowboys or Redskins fan? Of, course you are lots of things. There are lots of ways to define yourself, lots of ways you can identify yourself.

One pastor, the Rev. Howard-John Wesley at Alfred St. Baptist Church, Alexandria was interviewed for the Washington Post recently. After 30 years of preaching Wesley was getting ready for a sabbatical. When he started as pastor he worked 7 days a week. After a while, a parishioner, an older lady, asked, "Pastor, why do you work every day?" He said, "because the devil doesn't take holidays." And she responded, "Why is the devil your role model?"

Our gospel surely calls us to look to Jesus as our role model but it calls us to an even deeper engagement than that. It calls us to identify with him from wherever we are – whether in church or at home, at work, at the polls, while watching TV. Advent waiting and watching calls us to look at the core of our being and see ourselves as a Child of God. Throughout Advent we have been taking five minutes during the sermon time for silent contemplation. Over the next five minutes I invite you to prepare your hearts to receive Christ's presence and meditate on these questions: **Who are you in God's eyes? To whom do you belong?**