Passage

*The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, a 2as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:*

*“I will send my messenger ahead of you,*

*who will prepare your way” b—*

*3“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,*

*‘Prepare the way for the Lord,*

*make straight paths for him.’ ” c*

*4And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

*9At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”*

*12At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, 13and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.*

*14After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”*

Sermon Outline

* Overview of Mark
* Starting with good news
* Jesus’ message: the kingdom has come  
  + What is the kingdom?
  + The nearness of the kingdom
* Our call to respond  
  + Repenting and believing
  + *I have found there is no movement, or force, closers to the raw truth of war, famines, crises, and the vast human predicament, than organized Christianity in action. And there is alliance more determined and dogged in action than the church workers, ordained and lay members, when mobilized for a common good. It is these Christians who are right on the front lines of committed humanity today, and when I want to find that front, I follow their trail.*” – Brian Stewart