

St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Douglas GA

The Rev. Fr. John E. Commings+ Rector

Scripture: Various

“Recalculating”

It is so incredible to see our children act out the Nativity story. I think it makes the story of Jesus coming to earth more real for them, and for us. While we celebrated the blessings of Christmas today – we are still celebrating the Second Sunday of Advent today – preparing for the coming King. So if we can – let us get back into that mode.

Imagine you are driving on a long trip and your GPS keeps talking to you. Do you ever ignore the voice in the little box – or coming from your in-dash navigation system? The most hated phrase coming from it is “recalculating!” Why does it speak to you and say that? It is a subtle warning that you are headed in a direction that is different from the prescribed route. It is going to tell you what to do next to get you back on the quickest route to your destination. John the Baptist was the GPS for Israel – and they kept ignoring his message of “repent” which literally means “turn around” or “turn away from your current behavior” and get on the right track. They did not want to hear his “recalculating” message.

When it comes to “warning messages” they don’t come any clearer or stronger than the Apostle Peter’s in 2 Peter 3:3-18. His “recalculating” message was more of “look out!” than “recalculating.” He warns of scoffers who follow their own evil desires. He warns of destruction, but gives us the message that we are to live “*holy and godly lives.*” (2 Peter 3:11) In other words turn away from unholy or ungodly behavior – and follow Biblical, holy lives.

How do we do that? One way that we can live more godly lives is to be reading the Bible – daily. When Jesus spoke many would listen, but many would turn away. He wants to speak to you today – but in order to hear Him – we need to read His Word – the Bible. He can then speak to you and direct your life, guiding your steps and your behavior. Let Jesus – the Word of God, and His written Word be your GPS – to keep you on course – and remind you when you need to recalculate!