

Reflection for the 3rd Sunday of Advent

First Coming Madeleine L'Engle 1918-2007

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and
great. He dined with sinners in all their
grime, turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin
and doubt. To a world like ours, of an-
guished shame he came, and his Light
would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn. In the
mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker
of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise
our songs with joyful voice, for to share our
grief, to touch our pain, He came with Love:
Rejoice! Rejoice!

Chosen by Susannah Cornwall



NEXT SUNDAY 22.12.2024 4th Sunday of Advent
10.30am in the Hall 5pm with Zoom

READINGS: OT Micah 5: 2-5a
NT Hebrews 10: 5-10
GOSPEL Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55)



CONTACT US

Fr David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net

Revd Sarah Cumming Assistant Priest [on secondment
at St Davids]

Revd Mike Clark Associate Priest
mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org

Phil Baker, Licensed Lay Minister 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07536459096 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Liz Pioneer Community Worker
pioneerstthomas@gmail.com

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

X (formerly Twitter): @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

15th December 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

10.30am in the Hall

5pm Evening Prayer with Zoom

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

358 O come, O come, Emmanuel

252 Inspired by love and anger

432 Rejoice, the Lord is King

Tuesday 17th December

7.30pm House Group Christmas Party

Wednesday 18th December

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 19th December

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd

Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall *postponed*

Friday 20th December

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Philippians 4: 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all

understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

NOTICES

Three trees have been planted in the Churchyard. Two apple trees; Cox's Orange Pippin and Scrumptious, one Concorde pear tree. Community money was used to buy these. Thanks to Helen Pearce and Ian Totterdell.

Support for Pensions on Low Incomes

An estimated 880,000 low-income pensioner households eligible for pension credit currently fail to claim it and a deadline is approaching. The government says it is worth an average £3,900 a year, but it is also a gateway to other financial support such as winter fuel payments. If you know a pensioner on a low income, please encourage them to check if they could be eligible for pension credit. This can be done online through www.gov.uk/pension-credit:calculator or people can get advice via phone on weekdays 0800 99 1234

Warm Space will return on Thursdays, from 3pm in the Hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits and a chance to meet other people. A start date will be announced once the administration has been completed. **Also there are more spaces for people to volunteer. See David or Ian.** Watch this space for details.

Future dates & local info: 14 December—5 January Winterwood at Theatre Alibi.

Parish Walk

What: Noticing Nature walk—Winter edition
When: Saturday 25th January 11am-12noon
Where: Meet outside St Thomas Church Hall
Come and join us for a gentle, guided walk around St Thomas Pleasure Ground that will help you slow down and notice the things around you as well as connect with your inner world. This walk will take place on paved paths with the option to go on grass. Bring clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather and meet at St Thomas Church Hall.