

Reflection for Advent 2

*Almighty God,
give us grace that we may cast away the works of
darkness,
and put upon us the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in
great humility;
that in the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty,
to judge both the quick and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and
the Holy Ghost,
now and ever. Amen*

What draws your attention as you read this Collect for Advent from the Book of Common Prayer? I love the visual imagery of the words: that, with God's grace, 'we may cast away the works of darkness'. It has the energy and vigour of an end of season clear out. In place of the works of darkness, we ask for the armour of light; the Christ-light which cannot be overcome. This is not some distant ideal but for right now in the present. Jesus visited this earthly realm in great humility, but we are not to lose sight of his return in glorious majesty as ruler and judge of all. Finally, there is assurance that through Christ our Saviour that we will be raised to eternal life. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



Rev Sarah

Codes for the Zoom Evening Prayer & discussion for the 4 Sundays of Advent at 5pm.

Meeting ID: 861 6577 7243
Passcode: 202677
Telephone numbers: 0203 481 5237,
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 12.12.2021 3rd Sunday of Advent

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church. 5pm Zoom

READINGS: OT Zephaniah 3: 14– end
NT Philippians 4: 4-7
GOSPEL Luke 3: 7-18



CONTACT US

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

Revd Sarah Cumming Curate 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

Revd Alison Whiting Associate Priest
rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07961621001 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 5th December 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

**10.30am in Church, 5pm Zoom Advent
Prayer and Discussion**

Well done everybody with the **Music for Advent** last week! Here is the Response and the verse we sing together at the offertory:

*Blessed be God, blessed be God, blessed be God
forever, Amen. (x2)*

Blessed are you Lord God of all creation.
Thanks to your goodness ourselves we offer.
Fruit of the womb, formed by your hands, we are
your people for your world. *Blessed be God ...*

Do come and join our evening prayer on Zoom during the **Sundays of Advent** 5pm, code numbers top left, web link on the website, lasts about half an hour as we mix together some worship and discussion of the readings.

Note the feast of Mary on **8 December**, and ask her prayers for our keeping of this Advent season.

Fr David



Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen

Malachi 3.1–4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Philippians 1.3–11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow

more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3.1–6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."' "

Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is still advised by the Church of England. On most Sundays you can also be seated with some social distancing if you wish.

Coffee and tea will be offered after the 10.30am Mass. It will be served in the Hall. **There are a few gaps in the rota before Christmas. Volunteers are required for after Christmas. See Judith.**

Winter Market. The Church stalls raised £321.90. Thanks to all concerned.

Knit and Natter December 2021 We shall be meeting every Thursday from 10.30 to midday at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

House Group. Tuesdays at 7.30pm. We will be looking at themes of Advent. **Tuesday 7th December**, new people very welcome!

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays** from 10am-12noon. The collecting point is in the Choir Vestry via the Tower door. Please continue to be generous.

Please see the middle column for the Zoom codes for the **Advent Evening Prayer and discussion** on the 4 Sundays of Advent at 5pm.

We are delighted to restart the **Walsingham Mass on 15th December** at 10am. Fr Dominic Cyrus from SWMTC has agreed to lead these celebrations in principle once a month. How appropriate that we initiate this again in Advent.

16th December St Thomas Tots & Adults Christmas Party 9.30-11am. Please leave a message if you would like your child to attend.

