

Reflection for 2nd Sunday before Advent

I've had a song stuck in my head for much of this week:

I raise a hallelujah
In the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah
Louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah
My weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah
Heaven comes to fight for me.
I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive.

Although I hadn't realised this until recently, there are many themes here which resonate with our Lectionary readings this week. There shall be hope, healing and abundant life rising from the ashes, proclaims Malachi. Despite the solemn words from Jesus in the Gospel reading, he assures us that we will come through hardship and natural disaster through God's strength fighting on our side. Psalm 98 speaks of the new song, a melody, which will rise following God's victory.

One of the things I like about the song is that it can be sung quite softly as an affirmation of faith or roared into the darkness as an act of defiance.

What song or hymn words of faith do you return to?

Revd Sarah

**** WINTER MARKET ****

Saturday 19th November 12noon-4pm

We are having a table in the Hall to sell baking, jam, chutney etc. Donations would be wonderful. We will also be selling coffee and tea in the Hall. Volunteers to help in any way would be appreciated. Contact Judith for information.

NEXT SUNDAY 20.11.2022 Christ the King

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church

READINGS: OT Jeremiah 23: 1-6
NT Colossians 1: 11-20
GOSPEL Luke 23: 33-43



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
07536459096 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Judith Southam Church Warden
judithsoutham5@gmail.com

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

13th November 2022

Remembrance Sunday

**10.50am at the War Memorial then into Church
for Holy Communion**

Today

10.50am at the War Memorial then into Church

Hymns for today

288 King of glory, king of peace.

139 For the healing of the nations.

366 O God, our help in ages past.

National Anthem.

Tuesday 15th November

7.30pm House Group. See Ian for details.

Wednesday 16th November

10am Walsingham Mass.

5pm Standing Committee via Zoom.

Thursday 17th November

9.30—11am St Thomas Tot's

10.30am Knit & Natter. See notices.

Friday 11th November

9.30am Morning Prayer.

10am Staff Meeting.



Collect

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Malachi 4: 1-2a

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

Psalms 98

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.
His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory.
The Lord has made known his salvation; his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music.
Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King.
Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, the world and all that dwell upon it.
Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Luke 21: 5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down. They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them. 'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. 'But before all this

occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Post Communion

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high.

Knit and Natter. From now on through autumn and winter the group will meet at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10-11am. On Sundays there will also be an opportunity to bring donations to the 10.30 service.

House Group Fortnightly on Zoom. New people are always welcome; see Ian for zoom details.

As the weather gets colder we will be making a decision about where our Sunday worship should be. Would you please let the clergy and churchwardens have your thoughts about staying in Church or moving to the Hall. Thanks to those who have already said something.

