

## The First Sunday in Advent

The final verse of our Gospel reading for today, Advent Sunday, reads 'Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour'.

As we enter Advent, we are reminded that this time leading up to Christmas is a time to spiritually 'get ready'; to prepare and focus our minds and hearts as we reflect on the wonder of God coming to earth in person.

More specifically though, in this week's reading, we are called to prepare ourselves for His return to earth. However we may rationalise and assume that this will not be 'right now', perhaps it's the principle that we need to take notice of.

To live a holy life, we are called to be prepared. How would we feel if Jesus had been physically standing next to us when we lost our temper and said things we maybe shouldn't have? Or when we excluded someone, or ignored a very real need, or didn't challenge false gossip about someone we knew, for example? I think I'd feel embarrassed and humiliated to say the least, as I falteringly tried to justify my words or actions to Jesus.

A friend of mine has the words 'Bidden or not bidden, God is present', framed on the wall in his downstairs cloakroom. When I first saw it, it made me smile, but on reflection, I realised what a helpful reminder this is, that however it may feel, God IS with us – Emmanuel; a comfort - but also a challenge about the way we live our lives.

This advent, may we be conscious of God's presence with us, to guide, teach and lead us closer to Him, both as a church community, and as individuals.

Revd Alison

**Sundays in Advent 27th Nov, 4, 18 Dec**

**Evening prayer at 5pm via Zoom.**

**Meeting ID:** 839 0283 2802

**Passcode:** 625990

**Telephone Numbers:**

0131 460 1196. 0203 481 523. 0203 481 5240.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83902832802?>

**NEXT SUNDAY 04.12.2022** Advent 2

**SERVICES:** 10.30am in Church

**READINGS:** OT Isaiah 11: 1-10  
NT Romans 15: 11-14  
GOSPEL Matthew 3: 1-12



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# St Thomas, Exeter

**27th November 2022**

## Advent Sunday

**10.30am in Church**

### Today

**10.30am** Sung Eucharist followed by the Interment of John White's ashes.

*Hymns for today*

49 Awake, awake: fling off the night.

566 Ye servants of the Lord.

307 Lo, he comes.

### Tuesday 29th November

**7.30pm** House Group. See Ian for details.

### Wednesday 30th November

**10am** Holy Communion (BCP)

**7.30pm** PCC meeting in the Hall

### Thursday 1st December

**9.30—11am** St Thomas Tots

**10.30am** Knit & Natter. See notices.

### Friday 2nd December

**9.30am** Morning Prayer.

**10am** Staff Meeting.



## Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Isaiah 2: 1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

## Romans 13: 11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord

Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## Matthew 24: 36-44

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

## Post Communion

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.

Food Fight (Food for Sundays) are looking for donations of warm clothing, such as hats, gloves, jackets and socks. They are also happy to receive individual-serving bottles/tetra packs of water or juices. **Volunteers are outside Nat West bank on Sunday mornings from 11am-1pm** so any donations can be dropped off there.

Come and join us for **Carols in Church on 11th December at 5pm.** Dress warmly.

The response to this week's prayers is:

**Intercessor:** O come.

**Congregation:** Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

