

Reflection for Advent 2

Advent is that period of patient waiting that the promises God made will be really fulfilled, not just as a remembrance of things past, but as a present reality. Another name for Jesus is Emmanuel – God-with-us – seen not only as a figure in time, history and a particular geographical place, but here in our hearts, in the events of the world around us, in the sacraments and prayers of the Church. We wait for the birth of Christ each year, the moment of incarnation when the Word is made flesh and dwells amongst us, in trembling expectation, knowing that we risk being changed ourselves, risking our own full incarnation of holiness.

A Traditional Advent Prose

R/. Drop down ye heavens from above and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth, very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee. R/.

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities like the wind have taken us away; though hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. R/.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe: I, even I, am the Lord and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. R/.

Fr David

Sundays in Advent 4th & 18th Dec

Evening prayer at 5pm via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 839 0283 2802

Passcode: 625990

Telephone Numbers:

0131 460 1196. 0203 481 5237. 0203 481 5240.

Web link via the website and email.

NEXT SUNDAY 11.12.2022 Advent 3

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church
5pm Carol Service in Church

READINGS: OT Isaiah 35: 1-10
NT James 5: 7-10
GOSPEL Matthew 11: 2-11



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St Thomas, Exeter

4th December 2022

Advent 2

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist.

Hymns for today

98 Come, thou long-expected Jesus.

401 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry.

532 We have a gospel to proclaim.

5pm Evening prayer via Zoom.

Tuesday 6th December

7.30pm House Group. 'A song of Faith'
See Ian for details.

Wednesday 7th December

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 8th December

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30am Knit & Natter. See notices.

Friday 9th December

9.30am Morning Prayer.

10am Staff Meeting.

Saturday 10th December

9am Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers.



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**

Isaiah 11: 1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Romans 15: 4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as

Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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 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 Weekly during Advent on Zoom. We are looking at the songs sung by Zechariah, the Angels, Mary and Simeon. 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.

Come and join us for **Carols in Church on 11th December at 5pm**. Dress warmly. This will be an informal service in which people are invited to choose Carols and readings. If you want to volunteer in advance, please speak to the Clergy.

There will be a **Craft Hub on 17th December** between 10am to 12noon in the Hall.

In the interests of safety we suggest that people should **not work alone in the Church**.

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.