

## Advent 2 Reflection *The Location of Hope* Mark 1.1-8

Continuing with our theme of Advent hope, these are the 'locations of hope' I spoke about last week, focused on the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and of his return:

In the birth of Jesus – the assurance that human flesh is very precious to God, as God become one like us, so that we could draw closer to God;

In the suffering and death of Jesus – because God shares human pain and knows about it;

In the resurrection of Jesus – because that resurrection, the new life of Jesus is a promise of our own new life, with God;

In the return of Jesus (the second coming) – because all those issues of justice and fairness will be resolved.

Sometimes hope is rather prosaic and ordinary – just about carrying on carrying on, which St Augustine in his sermons puts much more poetically:

"So brethren, now let us sing Alleluia, not in the enjoyment of heavenly rest, but to sweeten our toil. Sing as travellers sing along the road: but keep on walking. Solace your toil by singing – do not yield to idleness. Sing but keep on walking. What do I mean by 'walking'? I mean, press on from good to better. The apostle says there are some who go from bad to worse. But if you press on, you keep on walking. Go forward then in virtue, in true faith and right conduct. Sing up – and keep on walking."

*Fr David*



**NEXT SUNDAY 17.12.2023 3rd Sunday of Advent**  
10.30am in the Hall

**READINGS:** OT Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11  
NT 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24  
GOSPEL John 1: 6-8, 19-28



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# St Thomas, Exeter

## 10th December 2023

### Second Sunday of Advent

10.30am in Hall

### Today

10.30am in the Hall

*Hymn Numbers*

401 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
489 The Lord will come and not be slow  
219 How lovely on the mountains  
6pm Carol Service with Grace Church

### Tuesday 12th December

7.30pm House Group 'When common sense tells us not to...' 6 Painter's Court.

### Wednesday 13th December

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

### Thursday 14th December

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30am-12noon Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd  
Details from Jenny on 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall

### Friday 15th December

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



## 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 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it, surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God! See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.'

## 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him.

## Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sand-

dals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

## 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

Welcome this Sunday to **Preb Philip Sourbut** who is our preacher. Philip is recently retired and was previously Director of Mission & Ministry.

**Community Larder** There will be a collection box in church on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

**House Group** will run a weekly Advent Course beginning on 28th November and finishing on 19th December. We shall meet at 7.30pm at the home of John Payne, 6 Painter's Court. We will be looking at the film 'Miracle on 34th Street'.

The next **Hall Committee** Meeting is on 10th December after the service.

### **Pioneering Parishes:**

**What:** A series of four fortnightly webinars to help parishes start to move their energy outwards and become more pioneering.

**When:** Tuesday 9th January, Tuesday 23rd January, Tuesday 6 & Tuesday 20th February.

**Time:** 14.00-15.30.

Please refer to weekly email and/or speak to Fr David or Revd Sarah.

**The Birdhouse** are holding a Christmas Carol Concert at 3pm. There is also a Christmas Mini Market that week-end. All welcome.