



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Readings and Notice Sheet **Sunday 29 November 2020** **Advent 1**

We continue in lockdown and so are unable to worship again in person. We will however still worship, and do that in different settings and contexts. This Newsletter provides common prayers and readings which we might share together.



Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the us to consider the expectation that Christ will come again, and we will be held accountable. This first Sunday we remember 'The Patriarchs' like Abraham and Sarah, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born.

The Collect

God 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.**

Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

These verses are part of a larger psalm of communal lament (Isaiah 63:7-64:12) that begins with a praise-filled account of God's mighty acts of deliverance throughout Israel's history. God's actions on behalf of Israel ("my people"; 63:8) are described as expressions of God's steadfast love, mercy and compassion.

Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Our Second reading from the letter first letter to the Corinthians

As in most of his letters, Paul begins 1 Corinthians with an expression of thanksgiving. Paul's regular opening thanksgivings serve at least two purposes: here he signals the concerns he has for his addressees and seeks to influence their behaviour and self-understanding.

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel is today taken from Mark

This passage represents the second half of the single longest speech by Jesus in the Gospel. The significance of this must be noted. Toward the end of a sixteen-chapter narrative about Jesus, early first-century Jesus suddenly begins addressing his late first-century hearers, in the second-person and often in the imperative mood. This is why many commentators on Mark see this particular part of the Gospel as most closely corresponding to the situation for which the Gospel was written. Jesus lived, was crucified, and was proclaimed resurrected in the first third of the first century. But the event of the Temple's destruction, and the very long apocalyptic speech about it here in Mark 13, reflect the situation of the final third of that century. The so-called "little apocalypse" of Mark 13 is probably best understood as crisis literature, spoken in the voice of Jesus, but to a context forty years or so after the narrated events of the Gospel of Mark itself. The purpose of Jesus' apocalyptic discourse in Mark is not scary Nostradamus-like timetables or garish National Enquirer headlines, but a promising call to a praxis of wakefulness to keep on keeping on in the face of a "gathering" theophany. It challenges us in our context to watch for the new thing God is doing in Advent. (Reflection is an exert on this passage written by David Schnasa Jacobsen , Professor at Boston University School of Theology

Mark 13:24-37

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

This is the Gospel of our Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Take some time to reflect on the readings set for today—what might they be saying to you? What might they be saying to us as a community?

Intercessions

In joyful expectation, let us bring our prayers before God

We pray that God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy, where all are welcome to regardless of race or background.

May your church be a light to this kingdom, and witness to your love.

We pray for our Bishops Sarah and Pete, and for all who guide and inspire us to live in love and peace.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Holy God who comes to establish among the nations a sceptre of righteousness, We pray for all those in positions of power, that they may govern with wisdom and integrity, serving the needs of their people.

We pray for the United Nations, the World Health Organisation and all agencies that work across the divides of the nations.

May the peace and justice of your reign prevail.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

God, who is revealed in the Scriptures
and made know to us in the breaking of the bread,
help us to see each other as you see us.
We pray for those whose commitment to truth
brings them into conflict with earthly powers,
that they may have the courage to endure.
We pray for all who work for peace, for those involved in research
and for all who seek to care for your creation

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

God who binds up the broken hearted, restores the sick
and raises up all who have fallen,
We pray for our own nation during this time of lockdown.
For the decisions being made which affect the lives of others.
For those who work with all who are in need;
and all care for the vulnerable.
Give us the courage to work for the Good of all.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Touch and heal all those whose lives are in pain or face sorrow.
We pray for those who seek you healing and comfort at this time
including Yvonne, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, John, Josephine,
John, Cecilia and Ruth....

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died, including those who have died recently
including Edgerton Rodgers and those whose anniversary of death falls at
this time amongst them Grace Burrell and Hubert Smith.

Rest Eternal, Grant unto them O Lord
And may light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace **And rise in Glory**

In this stillness we bring our own prayers before God...

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

**Our Father,
who art in heaven hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Notices

Coming out of lockdown.

Like us all, the church is trying to workout what moving out of lockdown will mean for us in the way that we work and workshop. It is our expectation that from Thursday 3rd the Church will return to being open for some groups—as it was before lockdown, and that from Sunday 6th December we will be able to offer worship in church again.

We are not totally sure what this next phase will look like, and await the published guidance. There is a rumour that some singing may be allowed, but it is unclear what this will look like at this point!! We, like everyone else will be trying to balance offering services, with being cautious that we are still in a pandemic.

Thank you for your patience as we work this out.

This coming week Morning Prayer will stay on Zoom only. However we will not open for additional Private Prayer as from Thursday we are expecting to return to the being open when Mo C is in the building. (*That means, as was the case before, that when Mo C is at church, and there are not groups in the Rotunda, that the Chapel is available for private prayer. This has always been the case.*)

Next Sunday we expect to have the 9.30am service in church.

PCC

The PCC will meet this Thursday 3rd December as we plan for Christmas and for the mission of the Church in 2021. Please pray for us as we work together.

When you come to church, please wear a mask and to keep a safe distance. You will be asked to wash your hands, or use hand sanitiser as you arrive! The Priest will do the same! But we do ask that you maintain a safe distance and follow the guidance of the stewards. If you are using the NHS Track and Trace App—please use the code adjacent. We also ask that you ‘sign in’ as you enter the building for church. Please do not come to church if you have any symptoms.



Christmas is not cancelled!!!!

This year Advent begins on Sunday 29th November. While many things will be different this Advent, we are finding ways to make the most of this season of watching and waiting in hope!

See the 2020 Advent Flyer for more details.

Advent Calendar

To make Advent and Christmas very visible this year we are going to have a Giant Advent Calendar in the rotunda windows. Each day there will be a new light or part of a story. There will be different bits to make and display; culminating with a full nativity by Christmas Eve. As part of this we would like to make a Christmas Tree. To make the tree we are asking people to make—knit, crochet, or stitch squares which are 20cm x 20cm. These are used to create a tree. All squares need to be completed by 11th Dec please!

Please tell your neighbours and friends what we are doing and encourage them to come and watching the changing picture in the windows. There will be a link on the church website explain the story behind each window.

The Church of England also has a weekly online Advent Calendar see https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/COFE_02977_AdventCalendar-ComfortandJoy_v4.pdf

Advent Study

Starting on Monday 30th November at 7pm on Zoom

This year we will be exploring ‘**Stations’ of the Nativity.**

There will be a 20min guided meditation on a different image of the nativity followed by some time for reflection and discussion. Each session will be stand alone, so you can join for on or for all the Monday’s during Advent.

Advent Appeals—the Giving Tree!

As with the past few years we have three ways you might help this Advent and Christmas. **Laurence's Larder** you can donate food or money—see details of their Christmas Appeal <https://www.laurenceslarder.org.uk> **Gift Box for St Mungo's**—Fill a shoe box with items that would be useful for a homeless man. Warm socks, hats, gloves, toiletries, tea bags, cup of soups. **Gift to St Anne's for its ministry**—give a gift to St Anne's to help us continue our work in this place. Simply place your gift to St Anne's in the envelope provided.

During Advent in worship we will be exploring the theme—as we watch and wait who is God calling us to be in Queen's Park. As part of this we will be re-starting the 2minute slot which will be shared in the 9.30am service.

News from Laurence's Larder and Sufra

As many of you know Laurence's Larder will remain open providing a 'takeaway' hot meal every Thursday. Preparation is taking place each Wednesday. If you would like to help out, please contact them first as they have to limit the number of volunteers at present to ensure they can work within the parameters of the guidance. Please see their revamped website : <https://www.laurenceslarder.org.uk/> **They have also now launched their Christmas Appeal—please see their website!**

We are also sharing our food donations with Sufra. You can read all about what they are doing during this period on their website <https://www.sufra-nwlondon.org.uk/> They are also looking for extra volunteer drivers.

Jane Cox shared last Sunday the good experience she has had being part of the NHS Volunteer Responder scheme. This allows you to volunteer from home. They really need more! See <https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/> **We have some wonderful volunteers from St Anne's supporting both Laurence's Larder and Sufra.**

Daily Hope 24hour phonenumber

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044.**



For our prayers Yvonne, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, John, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth and for those who have died recently including Edgerton Rodgers; and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Grace Burrell and Hubert Smith.

Services this coming week starting 29th November

Monday 30th November 2pm— Christian Contemplation on Zoom

7pm—Advent Study 1 on Zoom

Tuesday 1st December 8.30am— Morning Prayer on Zoom.

Thursday 26th November 8.30am— Morning Prayer on Zoom.

Sunday 6th December — Advent 2

8.30am—Morning Prayer in Chapel

9am—Thought for the Day on Facebook

9.30am— Eucharist with Sunday School

5pm Zoom Service for the day

Stay close to God and a safe distance from everyone else!

Please keep believing and praying for us all!

ADVENT

WE LOOK FORWARD



WE PREPARE



WE WAIT

