

St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Readings and Notice Sheet **Sunday 6 December 2020** **Advent 2**

While some of us will return to Church this week, many will not! We will still worship though, and do so 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 second Sunday we remember 'The Prophets' like Isaiah, Jonah and Micah—who sought to bring the message that God seeks us to "Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God"

The Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 40:1-11 is one of the most important texts in all of Isaiah. The narrative immediately preceding it (Isaiah 39:1-8) features King Hezekiah, who hosts an envoy from the faraway country of Babylon. This narrative, which functions as the conclusion to "First Isaiah" (Isaiah 1-39) points forward to what is arguably the book's most formative historical moment: The Babylonian exile. Splitting the book into two major sections—roughly pre-and post-exile. Isaiah 40:1-11 can be described in one word: "Comfort" (root: n-ch-m). This text is a word of tenderness after a very long and dark night of judgment. The text is clear about one thing though. What happened to Jerusalem happened because of the city's sin. The "comfort" that Isaiah 40:1-

11 offers, then, is not only an attempt to restore hope to Yhwh's relationship with Israel, it is also an acknowledgement on Yhwh's part that the judgment went too far, well beyond what Yhwh intended.

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Our Second reading from the second letter of Peter

Apocalyptic language is used in 2 Peter 3:8-15a to express the seriousness of Christian holiness and divine judgment ! The text begins by putting the primary focus on the day of the judgment of the Lord. It is important to point out that the desire of God is clear, namely, that he wants all to reach repentance before the day of judgment. Despite many theological debates about the intent of this passage these verses are focused on the themes of holiness and judgment, not the end of the world or atonement.

All of the cosmic language in the passage actually serves to highlight the themes of repentance, judgment, and holiness.

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel is today taken from Mark

This passage is the opening to this most early Gospel. It's preface quote's Isaiah, and presents some interesting parallels' with John. John the Baptist is best known as the forerunner of Jesus, the one who calls on people to prepare the way of the Lord's coming. In Year B, of our lectionary, the Advent season devotes two consecutive Sundays to the ministry of John the Baptist, presenting back-to-back parallel texts from the Gospels of Mark and John. As we reflect in this 2nd week of Advent of prophets and patience, but it also focuses our minds on the announcement that God is coming to us! This is fantastic news! So, what can we do to get ready? Confess your sins, John suggests. Get baptized. Repent. Later, Jesus will add, "and believe in the good news!" (Mark 1:15). God will come and fulfil all of God's promises whether or not we do any of these things -- but knowing God is on the way, why wouldn't we want to do them?

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

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

Holy God in this time of Advent,
we give thanks for all who have gone before us
For those who have formed and shaped the Church
For those who have called out for justice
and the promise of your kingdom
We pray for our Bishops Sarah and Pete,
and for all who continue to guide and inspire us to live in love and peace.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Loving God,
we give thanks for the forerunners
those who have the courage to speak out in the face of adversity.
All who name injustice and who work for peace;
for those who move ahead in calling for change.
We pray for all those in positions of power, that they may govern with
wisdom and integrity, serving the needs of their people.
And that all in leadership may have the courage to listen to the wisdom
of those who are prophetic in this age.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

God who inspires us,
give us the courage to listen to the prophets of our time
to bring change to our world.

We pray for all helping us to care for the earth,
for those who call for an end to oppression and war
for those who work for an end to the pandemic.

Help us to hear and to act,
in ways that honour the glory of your creation.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

God, who is revealed in the courage of action
help us to see each other as you see us.
We pray for this nation, for all making decisions that affect our lives,
for teachers, and medical staff
for carers and business owners
for all who work in sustaining and supporting community.
We pray for all who work for those who most vulnerable
for foodbanks and debt advice programs
for support groups and advocates.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

God who binds up the broken hearted, restores the sick
and embraces all who have fallen.
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 Cecil Nymn, Fredrick Slade, Lionel Patrick
Salmon and Nora Sturges.

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...

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 who taught
us to pray 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

Tier Two

We return now to Tier two restrictions This means we must not socialise with anybody outside of our household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place. Despite this places of worship are allowed to remain open provided that they limit mixing of households AND we follow Covid Safety Guidance. We must:

- wear a mask at all times inside;
- sanitise or wash you hands as you enter;
- enter separately;
- not mingle while in church but rather move straight to our seat;
- keep our distance when receiving communion and
- leave carefully with a 2 meter gap between each person or household.

Once outside please keep a safe distance. We are not allowed congregational singing, you might hum along under your mask.

Even if you do not agree with the guidance PLEASE follow it so that we can respect each other and do the best we can for the whole of our community.

Some of our groups will also return from 2nd December with very strict guidance on what we can do. We trying to balance offering services, with being cautious that we are still in a pandemic.

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.

PCC

The PCC will meet on Thursday 3rd December. We discussed planning for Christmas; possible services moving into the new year and management of the building. More details will follow in the coming weeks. Please pray for us.

Funeral for Edgerton Rodgers

Edgerton’s Funeral will take place at 11.30am on Friday 11th December at St Mark’s Kensal Rise (on All Souls Ave) followed by interment at Paddington Old Cemetery at 1.30pm. There are very strict limits on numbers so only the immediate family are able to attend the funeral. You are invited to form a St Anne’s Guard of honour at the entrance of the Cemetery as the Herse makes its way to the grave around 1.15pm. (Herse will arrive between 1.15 and 1.30). In 2021 at some point we will have a service of thanksgiving for Edgerton when we are able to all be in church together.



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.

Or the website <http://st-annes-brondesbury.org.uk/advent-2020/>

Advent Calendar

Our Advent Calendar is in the rotunda windows. Each day a new light or part of a story is revealed. 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 stich 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 Cecil Nymn, Fredrick Slade, Lionel Patrick Salmon and Nora Sturges.

Services this coming week starting 6th December

Monday 7th December **2pm**— Christian Contemplation on Zoom
7pm—**Advent Study 2 on Zoom**

Thursday 10th December 8.30am— Morning Prayer in chapel and on Zoom.

Sunday 13th December — Advent 3

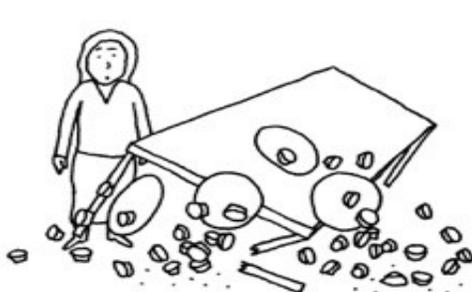
8.30am—Morning Prayer in Chapel

9am—Thought for the Day on Facebook

9.30am— **Eucharist with Sunday School**

5pm Zoom Service for the day

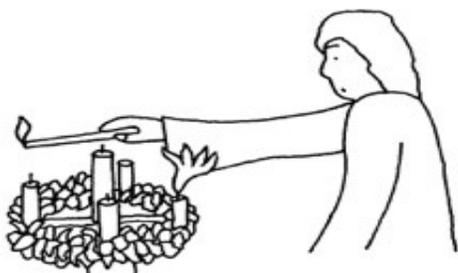
ADVENT HAZARDS



TABLES BUCKLING UNDER SHEER
WEIGHT OF MINCE PIES



UNREST OVER THE CORRECT WEEK
TO LIGHT THE PINK CANDLE



ADVENT WREATH FIRES



SUPERMARKETS RUNNING OUT
OF ORANGES