



# St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

*Confidently sharing the love of Christ*

## **Readings and Notice Sheet** **Sunday 13 December 2020** **Advent 3**

**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 third Sunday we remember John the Baptist. It is also the Sunday we light the pink Candle. We are half way through the Advent Journey on this day when we are invited to rejoice!*

### **The Collect**

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Reading from the Prophet Isaiah**

*The passage begins with an announcement of divine presence and action. While it is clear that the power and the commission are from the LORD, the "me" with whom God is present and whom God has anointed and sent is not identified. It is logical to assume it is the prophet's voice and the prophet's mission that is described. The presence of God's spirit and the work for which the "me" has been anointed, however, also draw to mind David's anointing as king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:13), the promise of a king who would heal the divisions between Israel and Judah and rule with righteousness (Isaiah 11:2-5), the release and righteousness to be carried out by God's*

*“servant” (Isaiah 42: 1-9), and the LORD’s spirit in everlasting covenant with all Israel (Isaiah 59:21). By these associations, the opening announcement underscores God’s initiative in providing for and speaking to Israel in days past and in the present.*

**Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Our Second reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians***

*The reading for this Sunday comes at the end of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. In fact, since most scholars believe 1 Thessalonians to be the first Pauline letter, these verses could be the closing exhortations of the earliest writing in our New Testament. How does Paul choose to end his first letter to the fledgling church at Thessalonica? The closing includes a series of easy to remember admonitions that, in reality, are hard to follow.*

**1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***The Gospel is today taken from John***

*John 1: 6-8, 19-28 is another introduction to John the Baptist—though a quite different one to the account we received in Mark's Gospel last week. Whereas in the synoptic gospels, John is portrayed as John the Baptist who precedes Jesus, in the fourth gospel, although John does baptize, "the Baptist" will never be a title you hear for the man, John. John has a very focused role -- John witnesses to Jesus.*

*John's identity is crucial to how he is able to bear witness and what his character witness means. However, in the end, this passage isn't so much about John as it is about his testimony. John's witness lends credibility to Jesus' movement. Furthermore, in John's gospel, witness is the beginning of faith -- bearing witness to the Word, Jesus Christ is the foundation for the emergence of human faith in God. What are the qualities of a person whose witness you have believed?*

*John bore witness to Jesus. Who now has a story to tell of God's accompaniment in their life and what that means? Could John be right that faith grows from telling these stories? ( Reflection from exert by Jan Schnell Rippentrop, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago.)*

## **John 1: 6-8; 19-28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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 those who are called to speak into the wilderness  
those who call us back to places of justice and peace.  
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 Peter, Pearl, 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 Lionel Patrick Salmon, Kenneth Timbers, Thomas McNight, Milton McGregor, Fred Hogg, Morgan Johnson and Ed Anderson

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...

We give you thanks, O Lord, for your heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face; and so as we wait we join our  
prayers with your Son 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 have returned 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.
- While there is some heating, windows need to be open for ventilation so please wear warm clothes!

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 is 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.*

*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](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. 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 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 Lionel Patrick Salmon, Kenneth Timbers, Thomas McNight, Milton McGregor, Fred Hogg, Morgan Johnson and Ed Anderson.

**Services this coming week starting 13th December**

**Monday 14th December 2pm**— Christian Contemplation on Zoom  
**7pm**—**Advent Study 2 on Zoom**

**Tuesday 15th December 8.30am**— Morning Prayer in chapel and on Zoom

**Thursday 17th December 8.30am**— Morning Prayer in chapel and on Zoom.

**Sunday 20th December — Advent 4**

**8.30am**—Morning Prayer in Chapel

**9am**—Thought for the Day on Facebook

**9.30am**— **Eucharist**

**3.30pm Carols in the Carpark! More details on this and Christmas to follow**

**6pm Carols on Zoom**

# ADVENT

DURING THE SUNDAYS IN ADVENT THE VICAR MUST CHOOSE SOMEONE TO LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE. IT IS ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST DIFFICULT DECISIONS

