



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Readings and Notice Sheet Sunday 15th November 2020 Second before Advent

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.



We are currently in Kingdom Season where we are invited to remember that we have a responsibility to ensure that peace might be realised; and God's kingdom is present now! Kingdom Season is a time for forgiveness, reconciliation and healing. The readings are apocalyptic in tone, depicting the end of the world and judgement themes predominate until they conclude with the triumphant Feast of Christ the King who will reign over all things in the peace.

The Collect

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah

In Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, the audience is jarred out of its familiar ritual commemoration of the Day of the Lord to find itself in the far more destabilizing reality of God's actual presence. Human expectations are overturned: this will not be a day of rejoicing but a day of deep anguish. What is it that could have led to so great a judgment. Denying that their strength comes from God, their strength is the first to go; they have lost sight of the God they worship.

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
'The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm.'
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Our Second reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians

These words from 1 Thessalonians anticipate the season of Advent, which begins in two weeks. How we mark time says a lot about how we assign meaning to our existence. Paul reminds us that beyond cradle-to-grave moments accompanied by seasons of aging, our lives are embraced by a larger time frame—one described by the incarnation of Christ and the coming of Christ again in the fullness of time.

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel is today taken from Matthew

Matthew 25: 14-30. The end is near! Today is the penultimate Sunday of Year A when we have been reading through the Gospel of Matthew. As we continue in Kingdom Season and move towards advent the Gospel reading we are offered is apocalyptic. The Matthean Jesus named Immanuel, God with us, in Matthew 1 is the same Christ who meets us in troubling texts "until the end of the age." . The end is near in eschatological parables, but it is the same confounding Matthean Parabler who narrates them. Matthew's language is different to that of the other Gospel writers, But Matthew wants to give us something to reflect on. We may not need to accept Matthew's answer, but perhaps we can benefit from working through Matthew's way of portraying the problem! Matthew is much more interested in using ultimate judgment as a future/present, as a way of encouraging an engagement with rather than a burying of talents.

Matthew 25: 14-30

‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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

United in the company of all the faithful and looking for the coming of the kingdom, let us offer our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

Merciful Lord, strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit, that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation to the praise of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Bless our bishops Sarah and Pete and all ministers of your Church, May we all be faithful in our response to your call.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit, that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ
Guide the world and its peoples in the ways of peace and justice.
We pray for all nations facing political, social and economic change; and for all who seek a just society. Inspire us to care for your creation.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love;
For those who work with all who are in need; and all care for the vulnerable. Give strength to those provide services to the sick and dying; and all who bring light to those in darkness. We pray for all who are struggling with the impact of the pandemic

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 Piers, Tiffany, Yvonne, John, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, John, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth....

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us into your eternal kingdom; preserve in your faith your servants on earth, guide us to you and grant us your peace at all times.

We pray for those who have died, including those who have died recently including Edgerton Rodgers and Bill Bateman and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time amongst them Lois Romain.

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...

Merciful God hear all our prayers as we look for the coming of your kingdom, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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

Mother Christine regular day off is Wednesday. At present she has been asked to self-isolate due to having had contact with someone who has tested positive to Covid-19. She is well and will continue to work from home. As we are currently in national lockdown this actually will make very little difference. This has also meant we needed to close the church for 72hours which means there we will not be open for private prayer on Sunday 15th; however Christ Church is open from 11 –12noon.

During Lockdown

I am very aware that there is mixed emotions about this second lockdown, and many are anxious about what this will mean for them, their health and livelihood. **The Archbishop's** have called us to pray during this lockdown as one team. In fact they invite us to *Fast and Pray* every Thursday in some way for an end to the pandemic, and to the injustices it has exposed.

We again need to change the way we do things. There is to be **NO Public Worship**, but we will still worship and prayer. **St Anne's and St Andrew's building is closed** accept for the Nursery who continues to operate in accordance with the guidance. We will open the chapel for individual prayer at different points during lockdown. We need to do this in a way to maintain safety for those who still need to work here and adhere to guidance.

Each Sunday two Zoom Services will be offered; **one 9.30am and one at 5pm**. During the week, Contemplation and Morning Prayer will continue on Zoom.

The Church and Chapel will be **open for *Private Prayer* Tuesday 17th 10am—12noon**. You will be able to enter the building through the car park door. You will need to wash hands or sanitise them, and continue to wear a face mask. You will then be able to sit in the church or the chapel. This is for individuals or households. Like when we were in church you must not talk or mingle with anyone inside, or speak with more than one person outside. **The Prayer Chapel at Christ Church** on Willesden Lane continues to be open daily from **9am –4pm**; and St Martin's Kensal Rise is open from 9.30-10.30 on Thursday Morning.



Advent Windows

This year Advent begins on Sunday 29th November. 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. On the 12th Night (6th January) the tree will come down and squares sewn together and given to local Nursing Homes and Vulnerable Adults. If you can't craft a square you can contribute socks, gloves or hats which will be included in the tree and distributed at the same time. All squares or contributions need to be completed by 11th December please!

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. This month Bob has been recognised for his amazing hard work for Sufra (and Beyond) Congratulations Bob and Thank you!!!



Volunteer of the month from Sufra

Bob V has been consistently delivering hot meals throughout the whole pandemic – but his support doesn't stop there. He has also set up links between various other organisations and churches, and we often see him several times a week as he comes to drop off donations from here there and everywhere. Bob – you are an essential cog in the Sufra machine!

Thanks too to Bill, Henrietta, Simon and other appreciated volunteers from St Anne's!!!

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 Piers, Tiffany, Yvonne, John, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, John, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth and for those who have died recently including Edgerton Rodgers and Bill Bateman ; and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Lois Romain.

Services this coming week starting 15th November

Monday 16th November 2pm— Christian Contemplation on Zoom

Tuesday 17th November 8.30am– Morning Prayer on Zoom.

10am—12noon - Church open for Private Prayer

Thursday 19th November 8.30am– Morning Prayer on Zoom.

Sunday 22nd November — Christ the King (*Stir Up Sunday*)

9am—Thought for the Day on Facebook

9.30am— Service of the Day on Zoom

11am —12 noon - Church open for Private Prayer.

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!***