

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Isaiah 40: 1-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

WEEKLY REFLECTION & STORY:

The Rector has written a brief reflection and prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent – the document is attached.

There is a recording of the Rector reading this reflection and prayer, plus Julia Turner reading “Ruth Finds a New Home” from the Lion Storyteller Bible. These were filmed near the Advent wreath at the steps of the pulpit in Great Brickhill church. They can be found on the following links:

- **Reflection & Prayer:-** <https://youtu.be/HBqflvMmG8>
- **“Ruth Finds a New Home”:-** <https://youtu.be/DbWAXN-bEI0>

SUNDAY SERVICE - Revd Val Plumb, Rural Dean for Mursley Deanery

The Rural Dean has recorded a 15/20-minute service:- Advent 2 – Crying out into the wilderness! Follow the link:- <https://youtu.be/7L4OmeMHbrs>

RADIO 4:

Sunday Worship at 8.10am Cities of Promise - A place for nature

During this era of Covid the city seems to have been devalued as a place of human flourishing. Instead it's become a place of fear of contamination - a place to get away from, no longer a sought after place to live. But the biblical view is of a redeemed city, a place where human culture is valued alongside restored relationships - a place of beauty and worship of the living God. Such an understanding of the potential of the city might have inspired Sir Ebenezer Howard who, in 1920 founded Welwyn Garden City, a planned town that was intended to combine the benefits of city and countryside whilst avoiding the disadvantages of both. With the Rev Dr Rob Marshall, Rector of Digswell, Welwyn Garden City. Reading: Revelation 21: 22 - 22:5.

BBC TELEVISION:

Sunday Worship BBC 1 at 11.30am Second Sunday of Advent

The Rev Alan Miller leads a service for the second Sunday of Advent from the Church of the Holy Rude in Stirling, Scotland. With hymns from the Songs of Praise archives from across Scotland.

Songs of Praise BBC 1 at 1.15pm Young Chorister of the Year - Final

The Rev Kate Bottley presents the final of the very first joint Songs of Praise and Radio 2 Young Chorister of the Year competition. As it is the second Sunday of Advent, six of the best girl and boy choristers in the UK perform their chosen Christmas carols or songs for judges John Rutter, Laura Wright and Carl Jackson before one is crowned 2020 champion. The programme includes a performance of O Holy Night by Aled Jones, Katherine Jenkins and all the finalists.

OXFORD DIOCESE LIVE STREAMING:

The Diocesan Church at Home service for the Second Sunday of Advent at 10am

The president on Sunday is the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading, and the address is given by Bishop Fredrik Modéus, Bishop of Växjö – Oxford's link diocese in Sweden.

Advent is a time when Christians are called to 'keep watch' – to prepare for God's coming among us in Christ. Such watchfulness is about noticing God at work, and also noticing the ways our world falls short of God's intention.

One vast injustice which many have become conscious of this year is gender-based violence. As the world retreated inside during lockdown, reports showed an alarming increase in violence against women and girls in their own homes, including in the UK.

Since 2012, the Anglican Consultative Committee has called on all Anglican churches to mark the United Nations' 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence (which runs from 25 Nov to 10 Dec) in liturgy, prayer and study.

To download the order of service and to watch the service, live or at a later time, follow the link:- <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>

To access by telephone, dial 01865 920930 to hear the latest service (press 0= short service, 1= full service). Standard call rates apply.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ONLINE:

Worship at Home, an Online Weekly Service at 9am

The Second Sunday of Advent with HOPE Together

HOPE Together lead the Comfort and Joy online service for the Second Sunday of Advent. The service is led by Rev Yemi Adedeji and Rachel Jordan-Wolf preaches on the theme of waiting. Click on the following link:-

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services/worship-home-second-sunday-advent-hope>

To download the Order of Service, follow the link below:-

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/Advent%20%20OOS%20VFF%20AFN.pdf>

PLUS:-

BISHOP STEVEN'S LATEST PODCAST, RECORDED ON 2nd DECEMBER:

Final Episode 8:- You Shall Go out With Joy

Bishop Steven writes:-

So we come to the final chapter, Isaiah 55. This chapter is about comings and goings, and they set a profound rhythm for the life of God's people which flows through the worship of the Church. The first verses of Isaiah 55 offer the most gracious and powerful invitation for thirsty, weary souls: Come. But our prophet turns this into a fuller and deeper invitation still. To listen to the podcast, go to:-

<https://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/podcast/you-shall-go-out-with-joy/>