

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28; Psalm 126

### WEEKLY REFLECTION & STORY:

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

**There is a recording of the Rector reading this reflection and prayer, plus Diane Webber reading “Jesus is Baptised” from the Lion Storyteller Bible. These were filmed near the Advent wreath in Stoke Hammond church. They can be found on the following links:**

- **Reflection & Prayer:-** <https://youtu.be/-5-OcQT0KH0>
- **“Jesus is Baptised”:-** **Story -** [https://youtu.be/u\\_Zufy5j078](https://youtu.be/u_Zufy5j078)  
**Prayer -** <https://youtu.be/t8BgvZcFgKE>

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

The Rural Dean has recorded a 15/20-minute service:- Advent 3 - Advent Calendars, more than just chocolate!

Follow the link:- <https://youtu.be/SiW9rBOxafY>

### RADIO 4:

#### Sunday Worship at 8.10am Cities of Promise - A place in the heart

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. On the 3rd Sunday Advent, the theme is A Place in the Heart. Father Martin Magill and the Rev David Compton reflect on what this means for the City of Belfast.

### BBC TELEVISION:

#### Sunday Worship BBC 1 at 11.30am Third Sunday of Advent

On the third Sunday of Advent, Father John Dickson, Catholic chaplain, leads an ecumenical service from the chapel of Royal Holloway, University of London. With hymns and carols from the Songs of Praise archives and a new recording from the university's chapel choir.

#### Songs of Praise BBC 1 at 1.15pm Christmas in Norfolk

The Rev Kate Bottley visits Thursford in Norfolk to experience a Christmas light show - a four-acre lantern extravaganza. She visits the local church to light the Advent wreath and discuss the meaning behind Gaudete Sunday. Following the service in St Paul's Cathedral earlier this week, remembering those who have lost their lives as a result of Covid-19, Kate meets a family facing a Christmas like no other. Katie Piper visits a church in north London where their Christmas angel hampers are bringing some festive cheer to families in need. Featuring favourite Christmas carols with performances from Collabro, Marisha Wallace and opera star Andrea Bocelli.

## **OXFORD DIOCESE LIVE STREAMING:**

### **The Diocesan Church at Home service for the Third Sunday of Advent at 10am**

This is the week we hear of John the Baptist preparing the way for the coming of Christ, and our reading from Isaiah reflects the promise that the Messiah will bring the 'oil of gladness' and so then prophet exults us to 'rejoice in the Lord.' It may have seemed as strange to those hearing John's words along the banks of the Jordan in the first century as it seems to us now to rejoice in midst of a turbulent time, marked with such grief. But we rejoice precisely because it is into a troubled and broken world that God chose to come and comfort his people; not only with words and promises, but with his very presence walking among them. The Revd Serena Tajima from St Mary's, Banbury, presides, with the Revd David Tyler, associate Archdeacon of Dorchester, preaching.

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 Third Sunday of Advent: A Christingle service with The Children's Society**

The whole country is invited to join The Children's Society's first ever online National Christingle Service in partnership with the Church of England.

The service will include Royal President of The Children's Society, HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, along with the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is sharing a message of support along with the charity's Vice-Chair of Trustees, the Bishop of Derby, Libby Lane. Mark Russell, CEO of The Children's Society, shares the address.

Click on the following link:-

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

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

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/Advent%20%20-%20Children%27s%20Society%20OOS%20VFFF%20.pdf>

## **PLUS:-**

### **A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP STEVEN FOR ALL CHILDREN:**

#### **Calling all children... Bishop Steven needs your help!**

Bishop Steven writes:-

This is a message for all the children in the Diocese of Oxford: in our churches and in our schools. There are more than 60,000 of you – that's a lot – and all of you are very special. I want to ask for your help.

To read more about this and to listen to a 4-minute podcast from Bishop Steven, go to:-

<https://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/christmas-children-message/>