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Daily Hope – the national service 0800 804 8044

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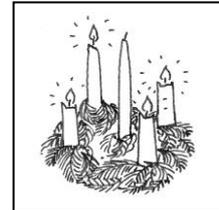
Loop Special – Sunday 29 November 2020 – Advent Sunday

READINGS - Psalm 80.1-8 - Isaiah 64.1-9 - Mark 13.24-end

As usual you will find these printed in full on the website.

ADVENT SUNDAY WORSHIP – ONLINE EUCHARIST

We invite you to worship at 10.30 am. Here is your link: https://youtu.be/RGgB6Uzvc_s
Please copy it and paste it into your browser if you don't receive the link by email.
If you have an Advent Wreath at home, you may like to light the first candle when it happens during the service! Huge thanks to everyone who has contributed to this act of worship, and especially to Bishop Michael for his sermon!



A Reminder ... no public worship in our churches this Sunday
BUT WE RE-OPEN ON SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER!

Next Sunday 6 December – 2nd Sunday in Advent

Albrighton	9.15 am Holy Communion
Bicton	11 am Holy Communion
Fitz	9.30 am Holy Communion
Leaton	10.45 am Holy Communion
Montford	11 am Morning Worship
Shrawardine	9.30 am Morning Worship

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP TODAY:

PYJAMA CHURCH 9.30 am – Film premieres, available any time after that. Access via Trinity Churches' website & Facebook.

SUNDAY AT SIX 6 pm

via Zoom – email Mary-Lou to receive the link which is sent out on Sunday.

SHARING THE LIGHT IN THE LOOP

Our weekly phone line worship – see top of this page for the local number to call.



COMFORT AND JOY

Deadline Approaching - Now 6 December!
Please help by writing a card for one or both of our church schools.

It would be lovely if we shared our Christmas good wishes with them! It doesn't have to be long or complicated, but it would be so appreciated. See last week's Loop for an idea of what to write. Then deliver the cards to one of the staff team by 6 December – and Hannah will organise the collection and taking them to the schools.

You can also take your card(s) to church this Sunday! But be sure to let Hannah know they are there if you do! (contact details are above.)

The children are preparing cards for us – let's not let them down! WE NEED LOTS MORE. Please help if you can!



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT - *this week from Mary-Lou*

It was when I went to grammar school and found myself in the Junior Choir that I first encountered the wonder and joy of a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. I have strong memories of waiting outside in the churchyard – marshalled into a tidy two-by-two line, with our music (no candles, they were reserved for the Upper School!) – under a frosty, starry night sky, walking quietly and unseen, ready to process from the main door into our candlelit church after the solo verse of Once in Royal David's City. I only have to hear the first line of that carol to be straight back there, with all the sense of hushed anticipation and expectation. It was in my 2nd year that I was asked to read a lesson, and it was the Fifth - **Luke Chapter 2 vs 26-38**, 'The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary'. My first challenge was to get up the pulpit steps without falling over ... yes, I've always been able to fall up (and down!) steps with some ease! But when I'd managed that challenge without disaster, I was privileged to read St Luke's wonderful words, and they became a strength and stay. Of course, that first time I read the words 'Fear not!' from the King James Bible. Now I tend to reach for a newer version and so the phrase '**Do not be afraid Mary ...**' has stayed with me. Whenever I feel fear, uncertainty or anxiety, that greeting and its reassurance, is there – and reminds me that the most often repeated message from our God in the Bible is just that: Do not fear, do not be afraid. I remember that even the Blessed Virgin Mary experienced uncertainty, anxiety, if not downright fright at this strange encounter with Gabriel. And I always find strength in that. In the traditional Carol Service, the reading is trimmed a bit and misses out verses 36-37, which speak of Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who is also – miraculously! – pregnant. If you look at the passage in your bible, you'll find in vs 37 another of my words of encouragement: '**For nothing is impossible with God.**' That reminds me that however inadequate, fearful, or low I am feeling, it's not about me – it points me in the right direction, back to our God, in whom all is possible. The Virgin Mary was able to overcome her fear and anxiety about the extraordinary call from God to bear his Son. It was after she heard the words '**For nothing is impossible with God**' that she was able to answer God's invitation, God's call, with her amazing self-giving: '**Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.**' Quite a lot of the time – especially this year – I wrestle, I really struggle with the 'yes' that is asked of me. But in Mary's example, I find that even though I'll never manage the completeness of her 'Yes!', I can make this my prayer: Lord, help me to say with my whole heart '**let it be to me according to your word.**' Over the 50+ years since I first heard, first read and came to love this passage, it has become the word of encouragement that gives me the courage to keep putting one foot in front of the other, whatever I find myself facing.

For Our Prayers ~

- Please continue to share in the national daily prayers at 6 pm*
- On Monday 30 Nov, which is St Andrew's Day - pray for Scotland, for all its people and their well-being; and for those who serve as missionaries.*
- Next Sunday 6 Dec is the Feast of St Nicholas as well as the 2nd Sunday in Advent - let's pray for families who will struggle to find gifts for their children this Christmas, because Covid has taken away loved ones, or livelihoods, even homes. And pray for children who live in poverty in our country.*

Something Special for the last week of Advent:

From Thursday 17 December, you're invited to share Prayer During the Day, every day – at home and via daily Zoom get togethers if you're able to, when we can also enjoy each other's company for a time.

Look out for more details next week!

Come follow Christ  in the footsteps of St Chad
Know the Story Share the Story Live the Story