

St John's, Pevensey Road

GAUDETE:



Rejoice

Pews News & Service Sheet
for Sunday 12th December 2021

The Third Sunday of Advent



Welcome to our Mass Services today - held each Sunday at 08:00 and 10:30 a.m.
(The 10:30 service is recorded and broadcast via our church website later in the day)

This week:

Morning Prayer Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, at 9 a.m.

Church open for private prayer, usually 9 - 5.

Midweek Mass Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Online "Zoom" service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Morning Coffee Friday 10 - 12, in church

**Drop in for
Morning
Coffee**

... and to spend some time in this beautiful church
Fridays, 10:00 - 12:00



Our prayers are asked for:

Geraldine, Amber, Don F, Sue T, Eve G, Jenny H, Alison N, Ana, Fr David, & Clive P.

Please pray also for...

the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Lionel,
... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Peter Turnbull,
Stephen Cockhill, Valerie Shaw and Dan Rodney,
... and all who mourn.

In view of the high incidence of Covid locally and the new Government restrictions we would request that the congregation wear a mask in church. We understand the inconvenience of this but it is for the safety of us all. We have a box of disposable masks at the back of church if needed.

Thank you for your understanding - *Mike and Barbara, Churchwardens*

Later today...



Parish of The Good Shepherd
The Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs
Magdalen Rd. St. Leonards-on-Sea TN37 6ET

'WAIT FOR THE LORD'



A Candlelit Advent Service of Music and Prayer from Taize

Sunday December 12th 4.00 pm

Please note: Mask-wearing and social distancing will be observed, unless exempt

Parish Christmas Cards showing our Christmas Service Times etc are available at the back of church. Please help yourself. Large print versions are available.



The Christian Aid Christmas card

...is at the back of the church for you to write your Christmas message to others in our congregation, in return for a donation to Christian Aid, who are working hard at this time to bring comfort and aid to our brothers and sisters in need. *JB*

Do you have an item, prayer list update, or info for the Pews News? Please send to pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com by 9 p.m. on Thursdays. Thanks!

Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent

Introit: *Gaudete (trad.)*

We stand for the Opening Hymn

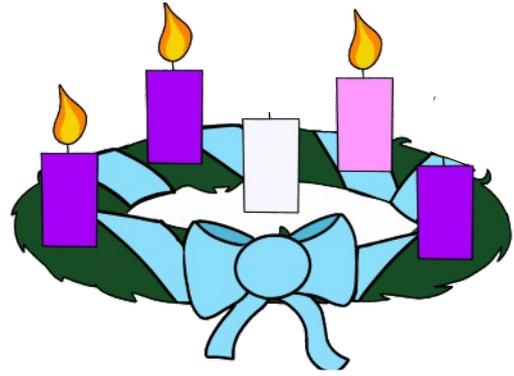
Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

Philip Doddridge (1702-51)



The lighting of the Third Candle on the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord,
just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your prophet John the Baptist
was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

***All* Blessed be God for ever.**

Welcoming of the people

Bishop In the name of the Father
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
***All* Amen.**

Bishop The Lord be with you
***All* and also with you.**

Prayer of Preparation

***All* Almighty God,**
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light
the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the
heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ
let us confess our sins.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in
newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Then the Kyrie Eleison is sung:

**Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.**

Priest Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all
goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

The Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

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.

All Amen.

We sit for our Bible readings

A reading from the Book of Zephaniah

Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the
judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your
midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to
Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and
praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Philippians 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I
will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness
be known to everyone. The Lord is
near. Do not worry about anything, but
in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be
made known to God. And the peace of
God, which surpasses all understand-
ing, will guard your hearts and your
minds in Christ Jesus.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

We stand for the Gradual Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every Christian breast;
and furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace our souls must fade,
and wither like a flower decayed.

Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,
and make us rise, to fall no more;
once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father, we adore
and Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
tr John Chandler (1808-76)*

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see
the salvation of God.

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to
be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers!
Who warned you to flee from the wrath to
come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance.

Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We stand for The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came
down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

We sit for the Prayers of Intercession

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength
to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

The intercessor leads us in our prayers...

The response at the end is:

Merciful Father

***All* Accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

We stand for The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break
upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
***All* and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We may exchange a sign of Peace

Offertory Hymn

*During which the table is prepared and
bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Lift up your heads ye mighty gates,
behold the King of glory waits,
the King of kings is drawing near,
the Saviour of the world is here.

O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ as ruler is confessed;
O happy hearts and happy homes
to whom this King in triumph comes.

Come then, O Saviour, and abide,
our hearts to thee be open wide;
may all thy inward presence feel,
to all thy grace and love reveal.

*George Weissel (1590-1635)
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78) & others*

Preparation of the Table

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into
your Kingdom.

***All* Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine;
she has set her table.

***All* Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

The bishop takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created
all things
and all your works echo the silent
music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us
in your image,
the crown of all creation.

And now we give you thanks
because you prepared the way of your
Son Jesus Christ
by the preaching of your servant John
the Baptist,
who proclaimed him as the Lamb of
God, our Saviour.

You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your
glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O
Lord.

As a mother tenderly gathers her
children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our
Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given
for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of
wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of
the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the
cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at
your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring
before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of
your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in
your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your
glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every
land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,
and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with Saint John the
Evangelist, Saint Peter, Mary the Mother
of God, and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth
and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in
songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and
power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, let us pray
with confidence as our Saviour has
taught us:

**All 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

*The bishop breaks the consecrated
bread.*

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

We sit as Agnus Dei is sung:
**Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Give us your peace**

Giving of Communion

*The bishop says the invitation to
communion.*

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to
his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive
you, but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

The bishop partakes of the consecrated bread - and wine on behalf of us all - to which we respond Amen.

Communion is then distributed, "in one kind" - The Body of Christ

Anthem: Zion, hear the watchman's voices (J.S. Bach)

Prayer after Communion

The bishop prays the Post Communion for the day:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

All Amen.

**All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and
brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared
your love,
gave us grace, and opened the
gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life
to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light
to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have
set before us,
so we and all your children shall be
free,
and the whole earth live to praise
your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Notices

We stand for the Final Hymn

Ye servants of the Lord,
each for your Master wait,
observant of his heavenly word,
and watchful at his gate.

Let all your lamps be bright,
and trim the golden flame;
gird up your loins as in his sight,
for awful is his name.

Watch! 'Tis your Lord's command,
and while we speak, he's near;
mark the first signal of his hand,
and ready all appear.

O happy servant he
in such a posture found!
He shall his Lord with rapture see,
and be with honour crowned.

Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise that faithful servant's head
amidst the angelic band.

Philip Doddridge (1702-51)

The Blessing

Bishop The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine
upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he
comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

Dismissal

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.

All Amen.

**Concluding voluntary: Postlude
Cantique (Dubois)**



Be kind to the wildlife in your garden – what little of it remains. Apparently the UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries.

That is the finding of new data by the Natural History Museum. It says that the UK has an average of only 53 per cent of its natural biodiversity left, well below the

global average of 75 per cent.

Worldwide, scientists warn that the variety of plant and animal life on earth is dwindling fast. It will have a serious impact on human life. The report says: "those biodiverse systems have lost enough to mean that we have to be careful about relying on them functioning in the way that we need them to."



WAITING is not popular in our culture, when so much can be obtained simply at the press of a button! Advent, when we wait for the coming of Christmas, is also an opportunity to learn what it means to be waiting for the promised return of Jesus. He says: 'It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back' (Mark 13:34-35).

We live between Jesus' first and second comings and this parable reminds us of the need to watch and wait, as disciples living faithfully for Him. It reminds us of two kinds of waiting: passive and active. Imagine you're at the railway station, awaiting the arrival of a train. On the platform a man is asleep, as he thinks there is plenty of time before the train arrives. He is passively waiting. There is also a small girl on the platform who is excited about the train coming. She can't sit still, and constantly looks down the track to see if the train is coming. She is actively waiting, for she expects the train to arrive at any moment.

Advent gives us a choice: how will we wait for Jesus' coming? Passive waiting doesn't require much attention on our part. We can live our Christian life preoccupied with our own concerns, rather than looking to God. However, active waiting involves an eager expectation, as we await Jesus' return or simply look to him coming to us today. All we want is to be found faithful as His disciples. There is nothing more important than being ready to meet our Master!

Rev'd Canon Paul Hardingham



How many **Christmas trees** will you have this year? Last year many bored families, stuck at home during the festive season, decided to branch out and set up two or more Christmas trees – often one in a pot for the front of the house, and a bigger one inside.

It seems that two trees helped people to feel more festive. According to John Lewis and Waitrose, more than 268,000 feet of Christmas trees were purchased last Christmas – equivalent to nine times the height of Mount Everest.

That takes a lot of fairy lights and baubles!

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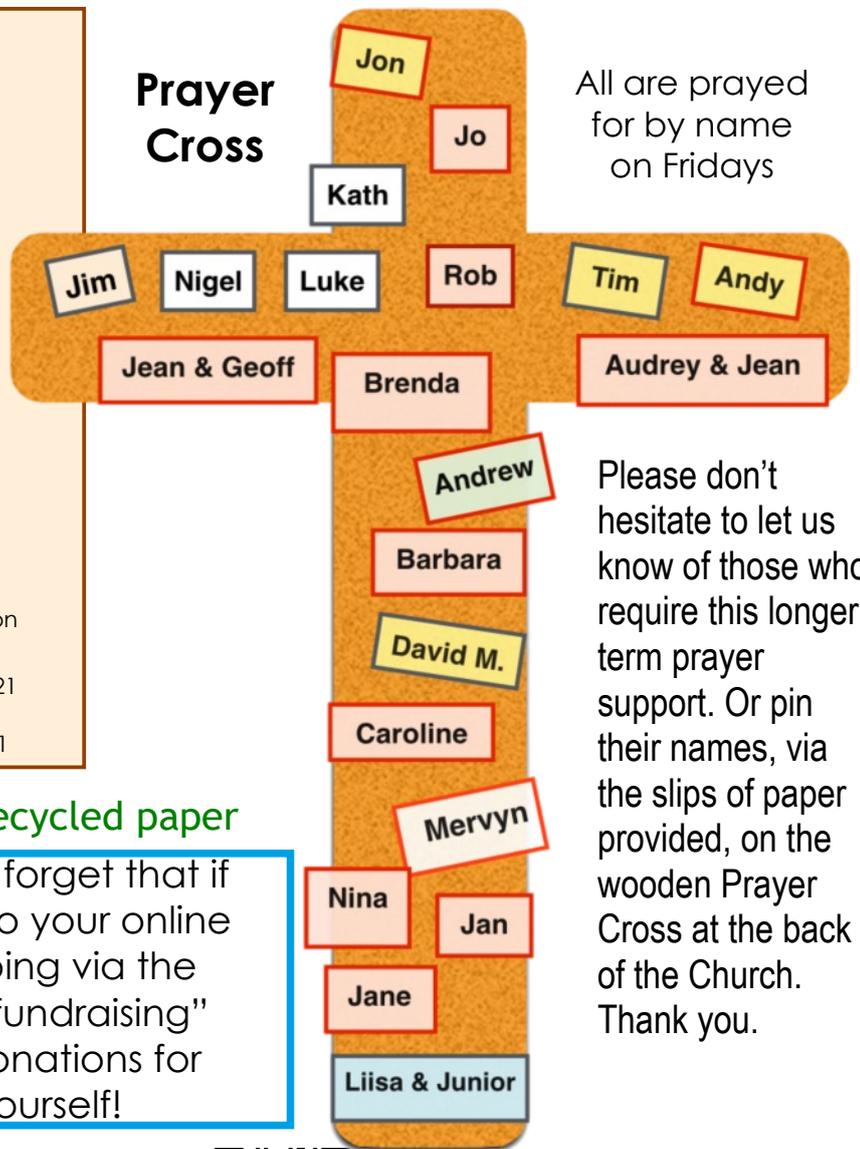
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