

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2022

<https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/>

Gaudete Sunday

The third Sunday of Advent is known as “Gaudete Sunday.”

Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

This is a quotation from Philippians 4:4-5, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is gaudete (Latin, “rejoice”; it's also pronounced with three syllables: gau-de-te)

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus, and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season. Thus it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: “The Lord is near.”

THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne**

[Charles Wesley]

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Words of welcome or introduction are said; we pray with Junior Church.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Third Candle

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the “Shepard’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

We light the first three candles

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.**

Prayers of Penitence

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

(Silent reflection)

In the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who in his great mercy
has promised forgiveness of sins
to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith
turn to him: have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect - *The Collect for the week is said after a moment of silence*

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 35 vv 1 - 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – James 5 vv 7 - 10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 11 vv 2 - 11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon – All sit

The Creed – All Stand

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

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

The prayers end with the following:

Merciful Father

All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace – *All stand*

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.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

During this hymn a collection will be taken

**To God be the glory! great things he hath done;
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son;
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.**

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear his voice;

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice:

O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,

And give him the glory; great things he hath done

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

Refrain

Great things He has taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice:
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory; great things he hath done*
[Fanny J. Crosby]

The table is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.

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.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you**

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.**

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is our great high priest,
who has loosed us from our sins
and has made us to be a royal priesthood to you,
our God and Father.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father,
who, in your tender mercy,
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;
who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered
a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction
for the sins of the whole world;
he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray,
and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit ☩,
we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this
wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy
institution,
in remembrance of his death and passion,
may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.*

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
*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.*

Christ is the bread of life:
**All When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father,
in remembrance of the precious death and passion,
the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death,
and through faith in his blood,
we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins
and all other benefits of his passion.

Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins,
to offer you any sacrifice,
yet we pray that you will accept this
the duty and service that we owe.
Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences,
and fill us all who share in this holy communion
with your grace and heavenly blessing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

(Silent reflection)

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 president 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.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God,
All you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of 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 president and people receive communion.

Communion Hymns

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns his face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon his shoulders;
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom.

*[Stuart Townend
© 1995 Thankyou Music]*

**Through the night of doubt and sorrow
Onward goes the pilgrim band,
Singing songs of expectation,
Marching to the promised land.**

**Clear before us through the darkness
Gleams and burns the guiding light;
Brother clasps the hand of brother,
Stepping fearless through the night.**

**One the light of God's own presence
O'er his ransomed people shed,
Chasing far the gloom and terror,
Brightening all the path we tread:**

**One the object of our journey,
One the faith which never tires,
One the earnest looking forward,
One the hope our God inspires:**

**One the strain that lips of thousands
Lift as from the heart of one;
One the conflict, one the peril,
One the march in God begun:**

**One the gladness of rejoicing
On the far eternal shore,
Where the one Almighty Father
Reigns in love for evermore.**

*[Danish, Bernhardt Ingemann tr. S. Baring-Gould
© Words: 1982 The Jubilate Group; Music: J. Curwen &
Sons Ltd.]*

**Taizé: Wait for the Lord, his day is near
Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart.**

Prayers after Communion

Silence is kept after which the Post-Communion prayer is said.

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.

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.

**All 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

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,

find us watching and waiting.

Amen

Recessional Hymn

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! (x3)
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing (x3)
Shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture (x3)
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! (x3)
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

[Charles Wesley]

SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 14th December 11.00am

*** in the small hall ***

Sunday 18th December 10.00am

celebrating St. Lucia - with some Swedish carols

Sunday 18th December 4.00pm - Carol Service

The Sunday service is livestreamed and can be viewed later our Facebook page

Crib Service - Saturday 24th December at 4pm

Midnight Mass - Saturday 24th December at 11pm

Christmas Day Eucharist - Sunday 25th December at 10am

Following the teaching of 'Loving thy Neighbour' - If you feel unwell, we ask that you do not attend so that we can maintain the health and safety of all who attend the services.

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Please remember in your prayers this week:

THE SICK:

Lizio Cassar	Pat Kyle	Barbara Warne
Ros Clifton	Pauline Milton	Lisa
Joan Davies	Ray Nation	Nic
Vicky Hal	Roy Stone	
Melvyn Jansen I	Betty Vince	

If you would like a name added to the prayer list, please contact the Parish Office.

We pray for Ashford C of E Primary school: the child who died of an infection, the child hospitalised, their families, the staff, other pupils and their parents.

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Mary Congdon	Ray Greenwood	David Mitchell
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THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Marie-Anne Inisan	William Arthur Hearn
Ruby Lilian Fulton	Paula Scotchford
Harold Bullough	Gordon Firth
Henry Franklin	Sydney Albert William Byne
Frank Allaway	Tom Pradey
David John Taylor	Ronald Francis
William Douglas Franklin	Lionel Eldred Fulton
Herbert Jack Cole	Thomas John Taverner
Kathleen Ivy Bengé	Nan Purvey
Violet Varley Pradey	Yerolemos G Pouffou
Florence May Oldfield	Cyril Holliday

Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula

NOTICES

The Parish Office is available by phone or email. Visitors by appointment only.

Mothers' Union Lunch - Tuesday 13th December at 12.15pm

The MU will meet in the Small Hall for Carols and Mince Pies.

Community Lunch –Wednesday at 12 noon * in hall *****

Join us for the Community Lunch at midday, **in the small hall**.

Please note there will be no lunch on 28th December or 4th January.

If you are able to come forward and help, even once a month, please do liaise with Bobbie.

Bible Study – every Wednesday

Bible Study group meet in Church at 7.30pm. All welcome.

We are currently doing an Advent study based on Charles Wesley's hymn *Come thou long-expected Jesus*.

Turkiye and tinsel - Saturday 17th December at 7pm

(Like curry & carols): Turkish food (not turkey) and carols. 7pm in the Church. £10. Book through the link on the church website home page or via the Parish Office.

Bible Reading Notes

To all who are currently ordering bible reading notes through me I have re-ordered for January - April, 2023 and will hopefully be distributing copies in the next couple of weeks.

If you would like to take daily bible reading as a New Year's Resolution then can I recommend you consider ordering the Bible Reading Fellowship Notes. There are 4 different editions - Guidelines, New Daylight, Day by Day with God (for women) and Bible reflections for older people. The notes are produced 3 times a year in September, January and May. If you are interested I have previous copies so you can browse before making a decision. The cost is £4.70 but I am able to get that reduced to £4.37 and £5.35 for Reflections.

If you would like to know more or would like to be included in the order please speak to me, Liz Brian.

Ambling through Acts course –Thursday 5th January

(7:30pm on the first Thursday of each month)

Everyone is very welcome to attend. There will be refreshments at the end. We finish by saying Compline (Night Prayer) together round about 9pm. I hope to see you there. Please bring a bible – ideally the NRSV, but any version will do.

St Hilda's News

Please send items for the Newsletter to kmroach45@gmail.com

Note that it makes the Editor's job much easier if you submit an item as a Word document rather than in the body of an e-mail.

Parish administrator

Our parish administrator is Laura Goodman; her hours of work are:

Monday:	3-4pm
Tuesday:	3-4pm
Wednesday:	10-11am; 2-3pm
Thursday:	3-4pm
Friday:	3.30-6.30pm

Note that any appointments in person must be booked.

Food Bank Donations

Please use the wooden chest at the rear of the Church to place any donations for the local food bank, such as tinned and dried goods and toiletries.

The Food Bank is currently short of:

- Shower gel
- Shampoo
- Kitchen & bathroom spray cleaners
- J cloths
- Small packs of washing powder and capsules
- Toilet cleaner
- Kitchen rolls and toilet rolls
- and tinned vegetarian meals such as Macaroni cheese and Vegetarian curry

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 5th-14th March 2024

10 days based in Jerusalem and Galilee

With Father Steve Gayle and Father Joseph Fernandes.

See literature at the back of church for more details.

Visit to Westminster Abbey – Date TBC

A parish pilgrimage (but not walking there!) is being arranged to Westminster Abbey, please sign up on the sheet at the rear of the Church or contact the office. A date will be arranged if we have enough interest.

Contact Information

Vicar

Fr Joseph Fernandes

vicar@sthilda.org

Vicarage 01784 254237

Parish Office 01784 253525

Mobile 07999 053433

Licensed Lay Ministers

Carolyn Clark carolyn@sthilda.org

Rosalyn Young rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwarden

Bobbie Bedford

PCC Secretary

PCC Treasurer

Christopher Brown

PA to Fr Joseph

Mariane Tank pa@sthilda.org

Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

01784 252170

The Parish Office:

St Hilda's Church, Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex
TW15 3QL

Telephone: 01784 253525 Email: office@sthilda.org

Website: www.sthilda.org

Charity Number: 1134119

CCLI: 708985

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