



On this New Year's Eve, as we give thanks to God for bringing us to the end of this year, we join in the Church's commemoration of

John Wycliffe, who died this day in 1384.

John was a member of the Wyclif family of Richmond in Yorkshire and was born in about the year 1330. He was a fellow of Merton College Oxford, and Master of Balliol, but his expulsion from the Wardenship of Canterbury Hall (later incorporated into Christ Church) in favour of a monastic foundation led to a lawsuit and a life-long hatred of things monastic. He was much in favour with members of the royal family and, when disputes arose owing to his attacks on the clergy of the day, he was protected by them from the otherwise inevitable consequence of deprivation of his posts. However, he went on to deny the Church's teaching of the presence of Christ at the eucharist, the doctrine known as transubstantiation, and it was this that lost him his royal protection. His opinions were formally condemned in 1381 and he was forced out of office by the university the following year. John had already moved to Lutterworth in 1380 and from there he gave his support to such projects as the translation of the Bible into contemporary English. He died on this day in 1384, whilst at Mass.

Today, the Wyclif Foundation, named in his honour, is committed to translating the Bible into all the languages spoken anywhere in the world.

O Lord, God of truth, whose Word is a lantern to our feet and a Light upon our path: We give you thanks for your servant John Wyclif, and those who, following in his steps, have laboured to render the Holy Scriptures in the language of the people; and we pray that your Holy Spirit may overshadow us as we read the written Word, and that Christ, the living Word, may transform us according to your righteous will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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As we come to the end of 2020 and look with faith towards 2021 and all that it has in store for us, we pray in the words of Dag Hammarskjöld, "For all that has been, Thanks. To all that shall be, Yes."

Thank you for all your support during 2020 especially since the first Lockdown on Mothering Sunday and as the ministry team learnt to embrace 'recording and livestreaming' Services, Sunday School and the Offices of morning, evening and night Prayer. Immense gratitude to all stakeholders – the PCCs, the presidents and preachers including the Bishops of Southwark, Dover and Croydon; Andrew our organist and the cantors and choir; readers and intercessors, crucifers and acolytes, wardens and their wives, everyone in the background like Josh, Colin and assistants Emmanuel and Jazmin, those at home praying for us, **all of you** - we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you too for the messages of support, they mean a lot to us.

Much Love and Every Blessing for a happy and healthy New Year in 2021. Mother Roxanne

Welcome to the United Benefice of Holy Innocents & St. Mark, South Norwood

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



31st December 2020

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne Hunte
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

Watch Night & Covenant Renewal

President and Preacher, Mother Roxanne

*I John 2.18-21 * Psalm 99.1, 11-13 * John 1.1-18*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

Forthcoming diary

Sunday, 3 rd January	Epiphany	8am (BCP) and 10am Parish Masses
Sunday 10 th January	The Baptism of Christ	8am (BCP) and 10am Parish Masses

CHURCH NOTICES

Please note that Mother Roxanne and Josh will be on holiday for the next two Sundays. Please contact the churchwardens in the first instance, or Cicelyn or Mother Susan (07890 780572 except on Fridays) should you require assistance.

Mother Susan will preside at 8am and 10am at Church over the next two Sundays while online worshippers will be directed to the Services provide by the Archdeacons.

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We pray for: Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; the bishops in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe. The families of our Diocesan clergy.

The Rt. Revd. Onesphore Rwaje, Bishop of Gasabo (Rwanda); the Rt. Revd. Emmanuel Nyitsse, Bishop of Gboko (Nigeria); and the priests and people of their Dioceses. **The sick** - Alec, Una, Claude, Helen, Linda, Mick, Jennifer and Reuben, Ted, Marie-Gabrielle, Vera, Barry and Valerie, Sheila, Andrew Scorgie, Joanna Simpson, Rose, Amanda, Allison and Caroline. **The bereaved** – the Davies and Aberdeen families; **RIP** – Olu Aberdeen. **Years Mind.**

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Thank you to everyone who has transferred the paying of your tithes from envelopes /family purse to Direct debit/ Standing Order – it's much appreciated as are all your offerings of time, talent, ideas – all to the glory of God. Thank you to those who have supported the Fundraising Activities and trust that you will continue to do so.

I pray that together, we are able to give thanks to God for all that COVID-19 and 2020 have brought us – the losses, challenges, fears, joys, new opportunities for meeting and communicating; vaccines and everything else in between. *I pray for a fresh outpouring of God's Holy Spirit upon us all, that we may be healed from all that harms us, now and always. Amen.*

COLLECT

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds; that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son, Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
AMEN.

FIRST READING

I John 2.18-21

A reading from the first letter of John

Children, it is the last hour! As you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. From this we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But by going out they made it plain that none of them belongs to us. ²⁰But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. ²¹I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM 96.1, 11-13

Refrain:

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Refrain

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

Refrain

Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them;
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.

Refrain

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth;
with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

Refrain

GOSPEL

John 1.1-18

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the

light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.