

The Church of St Francis  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
19<sup>th</sup> December 2021



Love



**'Love is like a candle shining  
in a dark place.  
As we light this candle we  
celebrate the love we find in  
Jesus Christ.'**

**The Church of St Francis  
Heartsease**

**FOR OUR PRAYERS**

**We pray for those who are in need of prayer at this time: Margaret & Martin; Eileen; Hayley; Ivan and Peter; Audrey; Sheila; Megan; Riley & his mum and family; David M; Alex and Amanda; Kathryn, Willow, & Edward; Lucy.**

**We continue to pray for Woodside House Care Home; Hebron House and all those who are managing long term issues including: Linda R; Gayle; Charlotte, Maegan & Carson; Tom; Rosemary; Cynthia & David; John and Jane; Rosie, and Pete; Shirley.**

**We remember those who have died in recent days, among them Grace Moore; Andrew Bartley; Barbara Miller; praying too for all who mourn the loss of a loved one or a friend, especially Jill.**

**Heavenly Father  
We ask your blessing upon us.  
Hold the Heartsease Community,  
and all the world,  
in your arms of love.  
Be with us.  
Give us your strength,  
peace, and healing grace.  
Watch over us,  
protect us from harm;  
and keep in safety  
all those who care for the sick  
and attend to our needs,  
in Jesus name we pray.  
Amen**

## COLLECTS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming  
as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet  
him when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen  
Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of  
your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs  
of this present age, to see, with her,  
our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



## POST COMMUNION PRAYERS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things,  
we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away  
the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ  
came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again  
in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive  
and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

## READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# THE WORD OF GOD

**You may notice that we do not always use all the readings in our Sunday service – we include them in the bulletin for you to reflect upon them throughout the forthcoming week.**

### **MICAH 5: 2 - 5A**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought  
forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the  
strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name  
of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure,  
for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

### **PSALM 80: 1 – 8**

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ♦  
you that led Joseph like a flock;
- <sup>2</sup> **Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, ♦  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.**
- <sup>3</sup> Stir up your mighty strength ♦  
and come to our salvation.
- <sup>4</sup> **Turn us again, O God; ♦  
show the light of your countenance, and  
we shall be saved.**
- <sup>5</sup> O Lord God of hosts, ♦  
how long will you be angry at your people's  
prayer?

**6 You feed them with the bread of tears;**

◆  
**you give them abundance of tears to drink.**

**7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, ◆  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

**8 Turn us again, O God of hosts; ◆  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen**

### **HEBREWS 10: 5 - 10**

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure.  
Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God”  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).’

When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

### **LUKE 1: 39 – 55**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of

your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

And Mary said,  
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’



### **HOME COMMUNION**



**If you live in the parish of St Francis and would like to receive the Sacrament in your home because you cannot get to church, please contact Revd Janet or Fr Tracy.**

**SERVICES NEXT WEEK  
ALL WELCOME**

Mon: Morning Prayer – 9am

Tues: Morning Prayer – 9am  
Evening Prayer – 5pm

Weds: Morning Prayer – 9am  
BCP Holy Communion – 11.30am  
Evening Prayer - 5pm

Thurs: Morning Prayer – 9am

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Midnight Mass – 11.30pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Simple Service of Holy Communion  
10.30am

**BOXING DAY / CHRISTMAS 1  
[The Feast of Stephen]**

Holy Communion – 10.30am



**FORTHCOMING SERVICES**



**WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS  
NEXT WEEK...**

**LET IT GROW  
EVERY WEDNESDAY  
@ 9am – 11.30am**



**Weeding, Sowing, Planting,  
&  
10.15 am  
Tea And Cake Break  
LOTS OF FRESH VEG TO BE PICKED  
COME AND GET IT!**

**THURSDAY MORNING  
IS COFFEE MORNING  
In the Church Lounge  
10am – 12pm  
EVERY WEEK!**



**ST FRANCIS CHURCH  
HEARTSEASE  
96 – 98 RIDER HAGGARD ROAD**

**IF YOU  
OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW  
IS IN NEED OF A HELPING  
HAND WITH FOOD ETC.**

**WE WILL DO OUR BEST  
TO HELP**

**CALL OUR 24HR  
ANSWERPHONE**

**01603 431259**

**[or call/text**

**07368 832294**

**Mon – Thur 10am – 5pm]**

**ST FRANCIS CONTACT DETAILS:**

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