

# Morning Prayer

at home with your  
Parish Church

in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

## Wait and See

Second Sunday of Advent, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### Preparation

*You may wish to mark your time of worship by arranging a table with a cloth, two candles, one lit and one unlit, and your Bible, or anything, such as flowers, that makes it a special reflective space.*

*Music: click on the links to hear and join in the music. Click stop at the end of each.*

#### **HYMN**     [Come, thou long-expected Jesus](#)

1. 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.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us for ever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone:  
by thine all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*(words: Charles Wesley; music: John Stainer)*

*At home, we pause to remember those gathered in Church who, in turn remember us.*

*We take this time, united in Christ, to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may find new ways to serve God.*

*Each Sunday we light one of the Advent candles to remember those who prepared God's people for the coming of Christ. Now is the time to light your second candle at home if you have one.*

First Sunday – the Hebrew Fathers and Mothers of our Faith

***Second Sunday – the Prophets***

*Third Sunday – John the Baptist*

*Fourth Sunday – the Virgin Mary*



*We pray:*

Hidden God, we thank you for sending among us in every age people who look deeply into things and have the courage to speak of what they see, articulating worry when all seem at ease; seeing hope when all is despair; noticing who is not in the room when decisions are made; exposing when it's one rule for others and another for us. We thank you for the Bible Prophets who prepared for the coming of Christ. We pray for those who unsettle us by their observation today: the comedians, poets, writers, rappers, journalists and prophets whom we need to hear. Let them prepare our hearts to receive you afresh this Christmastide. **Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

*We remember Isaiah's words:*

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

God, we have allowed our shame to ossify into an assumption that you cannot love us.

**Lord have mercy**

God, we have let the desert paths to the heart become clogged with regret and selfishness, sin and sorrow.

**Christ have mercy**

God, you long to shepherd us and we long for guidance, yet wilfully we ignore your call.

**Lord have mercy**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Word of God

OLD TESTAMENT READING      Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

PSALM 72:1-7; 18-19

*If you are able, you might stand to read this psalm aloud.*

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.  
May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.  
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.  
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.  
In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.  
Blessed be his glorious name for ever;  
may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." '

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH We stand and turn to look in the direction of Church, to emphasise our gathering around a precious, shared story, as told in Philipians:*

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every other name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

(From Philipians chapter 2)

## Prayers

*We pray* THE COLLECT for the second Sunday of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All: Our Father in heaven...**

FOR REFLECTION

Isaiah has pictured a tree stump: all that was left of Israel. There is no going back from cutting down a tree. The people of Israel were so depressed they wondered if God himself had chopped them down. Now, though, Isaiah imagines a new shoot growing out of that stump, a future that will be even more beautiful and peaceable than their nostalgic past.

Spend time thinking of no-going back moments where all seemed lost: it may be something personal to you, or it may be a disaster like an invasion, a political collapse, the destruction of an industry or business.

Hear how the Psalmsist expects a King's virtue to be measured by the way he applies the law for the well being of the poor. Bring to mind leaders you think functional and those you think dysfunctional.

*We turn our reflection into PRAYERS:*

*Begin by imagining John's voice in the wilderness and the image of preparing a path for God. You could even, if able, take a brush and sweep the floor for a little while embodying the sweeping of the path to your heart where God will come to you in prayer.*

*Then, bring to God the circumstances and leaders that came to mind as you responded to Isaiah.*

*Ask him to bring new life where there seems little hope.*

*Then, praying for leaders, you might pray for the present Transport Secretary, the Health Secretary and the Home Secretary as they face seemingly intractable problems and whose decisions affect us all, especially the poorest among us.*

*Among those we know who may be waiting in illness, we pray for Martha Ann and Norman Brookes, for Lynn Busfield, and for all returning to work after illness or bereavement.*

HYMN [Hills of the north, rejoice](#)

1. Hills of the north, rejoice, echoing songs arise,  
hail with united voice him who made earth and skies:  
he comes in righteousness and love, he brings salvation from above.
2. Isles of the southern seas sing to the list'ning earth,  
carry on ev'ry breeze hopes of a world's new birth:  
in Christ shall all be made anew, his word is sure, his promise true.
3. Lands of the east, arise, he is your brightest morn,  
greet him with joyous eyes, praise shall his path adorn:  
the God whom you have longed to know in Christ draws near, and calls you now.
4. Shores of the utmost west, lands of the setting sun,  
welcome the heav'nly guest in whom the dawn has come:  
he brings a never-ending light who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

5. Shout, as you journey on, songs be in ev'ry mouth,  
lo, from the north they come, from east and west and south:  
in Jesus all shall find their rest, in him the longing earth be blest.

*(words: Charles Edward Oakley, adapted; music: Martin Shaw)*

*Imagining all whom we miss, we pray for each other:*

**The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

**Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England**

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