

HOLY SAVIOUR CHURCH CROYDON

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday 11th December 2022

HYMN 31 – Come Thou Long Expected

During the lighting of the John the Baptist Advent Candle we sing:

*John the Baptist, by his preaching,
And by water poured,
Brought to those who heard his teaching,
News of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
And be ready for the Lord'.*

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 35:1-10 - Pearl

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² 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.

³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ 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."⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

Psalms 146 vv 4-10

⁴ Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help: and whose hope is in the Lord his God;

⁵ Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: who keepeth his promise for ever;

⁶ Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong: who feedeth the hungry.

⁷ The Lord looseth men out of prison: the Lord giveth sight to the blind.

⁸ The Lord helpeth them that are fallen: the Lord careth for the righteous.

⁹ The Lord careth for the strangers, he defendeth the fatherless and widow: as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.

¹⁰ The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore: and throughout all generations.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

NEW TESTAMENT READING – James 5:7-10 - Sylvia

⁷ 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. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hymn 2: 24 – Hark a Thrilling Voice

Gospel –Matthew 11: 2-11 James

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”

⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ 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. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷ 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? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ 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.’

¹¹ 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.



INTERCESSIONS – Barbara

We Pray Especially This Week:

*-For people worrying that they will not be able to see family at Christmas because of strikes
-For shop workers at this busy time of year*

We Pray for those Unwell in Body, Mind or Spirit:

Rev Peter's wife Jennifer, Brandon, Claudine, Billy's Uncle Richard, Barbara G, Margaret L, Janine H, Janet & John J, Stephen Mc, Geraldine, Sandra, Kat's sister Christine, Jean, Sarah's mother Fedora, Veronica F's friend, Matt, Tabitha's aunt, Brenda, Stephanie, Cyril, Minnie, Alexander, Cousin Zen, all at 44 Kimberley Road & Christopher, Miriam, Denise M, Ernestine, Simon & Samantha, Girish, Pat & Enid, Bridget, Adrian, Ron and all those we know and love

✠ We pray for the souls of Lorraine Cresswell and Janet Titus

✠ May light perpetual shine upon them

May they Rest in Peace

And Rise in Glory

We Give Thanks and Praise:

*-For Christmas Music
-For Rev Ada as we wait for Rev Tomos*

Prayer for our new Incumbent

Heavenly Father, we joyfully thank you for answering our prayers. With the appointment of our new incumbent, Revd Tomos Reed, we are now beginning a new stage of our journey. Help us to be united in support, as we extend a warm and godly welcome. Keep your call fresh in his heart and constantly renew his spirit as he prepares for the work within the church and the wider community. Strengthen and guide him too for the challenges that lie ahead. Lord, as we rely on you, we have that re-assurance knowing that we have a future filled with hope. Amen

Offertory – 125-O for a Thousand Tongues

Communion Hymns.

52– The People That in Darkness

HHS 2– People Look East

Post Communion Prayer

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. Amen

Final Hymn: 26 - O Come, O Come Emmanuel

NOTICES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Please stay at home if you have cold or flu-like symptoms.

- Today** **10.00am-11.15am** – Holy Communion Service – Advent 3
Revd Ada presiding and preaching
- Tues 13 Dec** **7.30pm-8.30pm** – Night Prayer with mindfulness and meditation
- Weds 14 Dec** **10am-10.45am** Midweek Service in church
- Thurs 15 Dec** **No Bible Study**
- Fri 16 Dec** **6.30pm** – Choir practice for the Carol Service on Sunday. Please come and join us to make this a real success.
- Sat 17 Dec** **10am** – Prayer for Healing and Wholeness in church
10.30am-11.30am Holy Dusters & Parish Office for baptisms (Christenings), Weddings and all bookings
- Sun 18 Dec** **10am-11.15am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent.
5.00pm – Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

“Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent; one waits, hopes, and does this, that, or the other- things that are of no real consequence- the door is shut, and can be opened only from the outside.”

Letters from Prison - November 21, 1943”

— Dietrech Bonhoeffer

John the Baptist never performed any miracles. Yet, he was greater than any of the Old Testament prophets.

Leonard Ravenhill

“Therefore, this joy of mine is now full. He must increase, and I must decrease.”

— John the Baptist

Next Sunday’s Readings – Fourth Sunday of Advent

OT - Isaiah 7 vv 10-16

NT -Romans 1 vv: 1-7

Gospel - Matthew 1 vv 18-25

Psalm- 80 vv 1-8

Copyright acknowledgement:

The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible copyright©1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA. All rights reserved. Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England copyright© The Archbishops’ Council