

Holy Saviour Church, Croydon

Third Sunday of Advent – 17th December 2023

Entrance Hymn: 27 – *On Jordan's Bank*

Hymn Before the Gospel: 244 – *Hark my Soul, it is The Lord*

Offertory Hymn: 26– *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Communion Hymn(s):: 233– *O Thou who Camest; Reflective music*

Final Hymn: 316–*Lo, From the Desert Homes –(Omit verse 4)*

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 forever. **Amen**

FIRST READING : Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 – Sheri

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.⁸ For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

PSALM 126: 1-2, 8-13

When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion : then were we like unto them that dream.

² Then was our mouth filled with laughter : and our tongue with joy.

³ Then said they among the heathen : The Lord hath done great things for them.

⁴ Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already : whereof we rejoice.

⁵ Turn our captivity, O Lord : as the rivers in the south.

⁶ They that sow in tears : shall reap in joy.

⁷ He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth good seed : shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

We remain seated for the concluding doxology:

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

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24– Sue

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil. ²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

GOSPEL – John 1: 6-8, 19-28 - James

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²² Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

INTERCESSIONS – Marie

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

Amy, Milton Findlay, Clifford, Finn, Tony, Julie and her father, Billy, Jacob, Ellie and her mother, Jean and Roger, Trudy's sister Sally, Rev Peter's wife Jennifer, Brandon, Billy's Uncle Richard, Barbara G, Margaret L, Janine H, John J, Stephen Mc, Geraldine, Sandra, Kat's sister Christine, Jean, Sarah's mother Fedora, Vilma Morgan, Matt, Brenda, Stephanie, Cyril, Minnie, Alexander, Cousin Zen, Christopher, Denise M, Enid, Simon & Samantha, Girish, Pat, Adrian, Ron, Cleveland, Britt and Barry, Margaret T, Rev'd Catherine Tucker and family, Hilary and Odion Ayotunde Edeki

We pray for those who mourn

We pray for the souls of Micheline Langlois, Janet Jeyes, Stacey's mother Debbie and Rev'd Catherine's sister Judith, Trudy Payne (priest) and Miriam Kolandawel

May light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

And rise in glory.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of thy 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**

PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Rev'd Tomos Reed, Holy Saviour Vicarage
115 St Saviour's Road, Croydon CR0 2XF
vicar@holysaviourcroydon.co.uk; 07832967059
www.holysaviourcroydon.co.uk

Hall Bookings: info@holysaviourcroydon.co.uk

For Baptisms (Christenings) and Weddings, please speak to or contact the Vicar

Services this Week

Today	10am – Third Sunday of Advent: Parish Eucharist (Fr Tomos presiding and Revd Canon Jeremy Clarke-King preaching) 4:00pm – Family Carol Service (well loved carols; traditional readings telling the Christmas Story; with a special role for children in preparing the crib)
Tues 19 Dec	7:30 pm -Zoom Night Prayer in Advent. If you wish to join the group, please let Fr Tomos know.
Wed 20 Dec	10.00am – Midweek Eucharist
Sat 23 Dec	10:30am – Holy Dusters
Sun 24 Dec	10am – Fourth Sunday of Advent: Parish Eucharist (Fr Tomos Presiding and Preaching) 11:00pm – Midnight Mass (Fr Tomos presiding and preaching)
Mon 25 Dec	10:00am – Christmas Day Eucharist (Fr Tomos presiding and Reader James preaching)

Other Notices

Miriam Kolandawel RIP – Regular worshippers at Holy Saviour will have very fond memories of Miriam who died at the beginning of this week. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Mission Action Planning Questionnaires – Please take one of these from the back of church; your thoughts and opinions are essential in helping the PCC formulate our new Mission Action Plan (MAP).

Food Bank - New donations are always welcome. Thank you for your generosity! Instead of opening a door on an Advent Calender, why not get a box, and put a small item in it each day, to donate to the food bank after Christmas?

Sun 24 Dec	10am Fourth Sunday in Advent; 11pm Midnight Mass
Mon 25 Dec	10am Christmas Day Eucharist

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