

Holy Saviour Church, Croydon

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 24th December 2023

In order to help Richard our organist prepare for the Christmas services there will be no hymns this morning and the Parish Eucharist will be said rather than sung.

Music during the Offertory – *Lo He Comes With Cloud Descending (trad.)*

Music for reflection during Communion – *A Spotless Rose (Ledger); The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (trad.); The Truth Sent From Above (trad)*

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

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**

FIRST READING : 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 – Lilian

Now when the king was settled in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind, for the Lord is with you.” ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel, ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.”

Canticle – The Magnificat

MY soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

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: world without end. Amen

SECOND READING Romans 16: 25-27– Barbara

²⁵ Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen

GOSPEL – Luke 1: 26-38 - Marie

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

INTERCESSIONS – Christine

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, 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: Jean Freeman, Micheline Langlois, Janet Jeyes, Stacey's mother Debbie and Rev'd Catherine's sister Judith, Trudy Payne (priest) and Miriam Kolandawal

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

And rise in glory.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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**

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.

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

Services this Week

Today	10am – Fourth Sunday of Advent: Parish Eucharist (Fr Tomos Presiding and Preaching) 11:00pm – Midnight Mass (Fr Tomos presiding and preaching, Feastal Eucharist with incense)
Mon 25 Dec	10:00am – Christmas Day Eucharist (Fr Tomos presiding and Reader James preaching)
Tues 26 Dec	7:30 pm - Zoom Night Prayer and Bible Study returns in January
Wed 27 Dec	10.00am – Midweek Eucharist
Sat 30 Dec	10:30am – Holy Dusters
Sun 31 Dec	10am – First Sunday of Christmas: Parish Eucharist (Fr Tomos Presiding and Preaching)

Other Notices

Miriam Kolandawal RIP – Regular worshippers at Holy Saviour will have very fond memories of Miriam who died on 12 December. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. Miriam's funeral will take place at Croydon Crematorium East Chapel on Friday 12 January 2024, beginning at 2.15pm.

Trudy Payne RIP – Trudy's funeral will take place on Thursday 11 January 2024. There will be Requiem Mass at St Barnabas' Church Mitcham at 11.30am followed by Committal at Croydon Crematorium East Chapel at 1.30pm. For those wishing to travel by public transport, the 264 bus from West Croydon Bust Station passes close to the church.

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?

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