

St Andrew's Church

Advent 2

Newsletter for December 6th 2020

10.00am Mass - welcome back to church!

Celebrant and Preacher; Father John

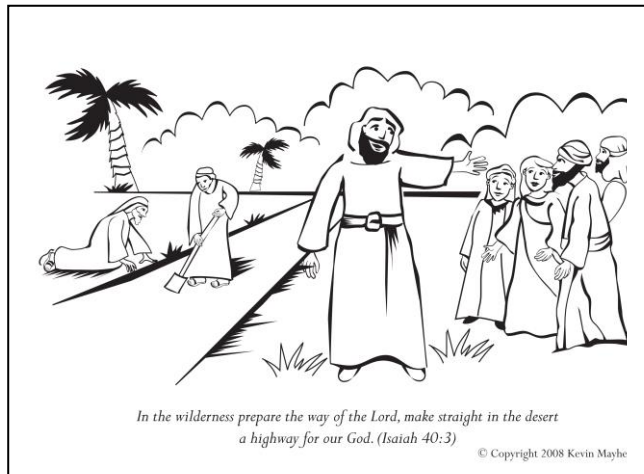
Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 40 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and



hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Hear the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Mark 1;1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please pray for people who are in need of prayer: We pray for all doctors and nurses, for all carers, for all medical workers and support staff.

For those who are sick: Andrina Bateman, Harry, Andrew, KB and his sister, Penny Fleming, Jalal and Jane Ahmed.

For those who have recently died: Winston Davis

Anniversary of death: Bea Wolverson, Sheila Sargeant.

Birthdays: Rene

Prayers

O God, who told us that those who walk in darkness have seen a great light, keep us looking up so that we do not miss the light coming through the darkness. Darkness might make us stumble; keep our feet safe from anything that might trip us up. Darkness can stop us seeing; keep our eyes wide open for all the loveliness of life. Darkness might make us afraid; give us peace and courage. Lord of light, shine on us, lift up the light of your countenance upon us and all whom we love; now and always, Amen.