

St Andrew's Church

Newsletter for Advent 3 December 13th 2020

10.00am Service of the Word

NB This service is in church

Led by Stuart

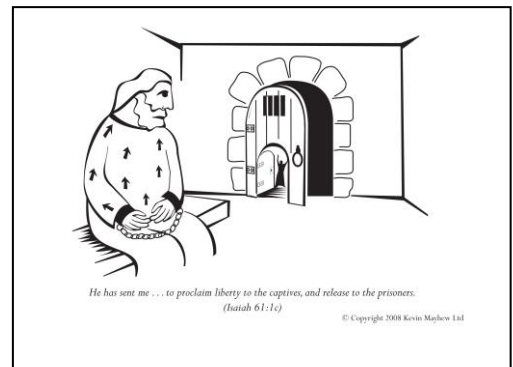
Collect

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.**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-end

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 brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

Hear the Holy Gospel according to John

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

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. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Please pray for people who are sick or in need of prayer: The family of Michael Hines, Enid, Gloria and Aubrey, Annette Black and family, Linda, Harry, Sue, Michael Jeanes, Les, Pauline and Jim, William, Jane and Jalal.

For those who have recently died: Michael Hines

Anniversary of death: Doreen Rose, Nicholas Jason Machiridza, Eleanor Doreen Fisher, Hilda Brown, Freda Wild, Joyce Johnson, Jean Taylor.

Notices

Christmas Services

- **20th December 6.00pm Carol Service (Zoom)**
- **24th December 11.30pm Midnight Mass (Zoom)**
- **25th December 10.00am Eucharist (in Church)**
- **27th December 10.00am Eucharist (in Church)**
- **1st January 12 noon New Year Service (in Church)**
- **3rd January (Epiphany) 10.00am Eucharist (in Church)**

Pauline Wyers is sorry that due to ill health she will not be sending Christmas cards this year. She wishes everyone a happy Christmas, and every blessing in the New Year.

For your prayers

If you don't already know it, you might like to explore the "Pray-as-you-go" app. There is a daily 10 minute slot with music, a reading, and prayerful reflection. There is also, if you google "pray-as-you-go examen" a series of reflections for the end of your day, to help you reflect on where God has been in your life that day. There is one for children and one for young adults. You can also do an imaginative contemplation – really inspiring! In this time of difficulty, perhaps you could turn to something new – you might find it really rewarding.

A prayer for now

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.