

St Andrew's Church

Advent 4

Newsletter for December 20th 2020

10.00am Mass in Church

Celebrant and Preacher ~ Rev Brian Hall

Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when David was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the 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."

Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: "Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I 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. Wherever 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?" Now 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; and 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. And 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, from 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. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

Gospel

Luke 1; 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God."

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.



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.**

Please pray for people who are in need of prayer:

We pray for all those working with the vaccines for Covid-19. We give thanks for the skill and perseverance of those developing vaccines. We pray for all those receiving vaccines, especially those elderly people now looking forward to meeting their families again.

Please pray for people who are sick: Gill Ludford, the family of Winston Davis, Rene.

For those who have recently died: Winston Davis

Anniversary of death: Harry Brawn, Lorraine Maria Lawrence-Campbell, Joan Romanes, Phillip Mhike

Birthdays: Gloria James

Notices

Winston Davis's funeral is on Wednesday 23rd December. 9.00am. Family only in church.

Mary Bairstow and the boys are cycling a Water Trail fundraising for WaterAid. Please donate via the link on WhatsApp posted last Wednesday.

Please be assured that anyone who is struggling or in need of someone to talk to can contact any of the Readers for a confidential conversation. These are difficult times for us all, and no one should hesitate to seek help when it is needed.

Contact details; Stuart Jeffs 07910 484 505 or stuart@centaur-solutions.com

Val Powell 07450 890 068 or valpowell52@gmail.com

Carole Sami carole7777@hotmail.com

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Prayer

Almighty God, we recall at this joyful season how, through her willingness to hear your word and commit herself to your service, you were able to use Mary to fulfil your purpose, entering our world, inaugurating your kingdom and bringing closer that day when sorrow and suffering, darkness and death will be no more. Help us, then, as we gather now to worship, to hear your word and to respond with similar obedience, prepared to be used as you see fit. Through our discipleship, weak and feeble though it might be, may your grace be revealed, your love made known and your world enriched. Amen.

Nick Fawcett