



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

6th December 2020
Second Sunday in Advent

*Let us watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC
and then set the table for our shared meal.*



- *Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.*

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food.

As we celebrate on this, the first Sunday in Advent, let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table that bring us Hope.

- *Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal*

Let us set our meal for this day. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship.



God had planned the coming of Jesus long before John the Baptist. The prophet Isaiah was in the year 740BC and he speaks the word of the Lord predicting John the Baptist and the coming of Jesus. When the Assyrian Kings conquered lands, in those days, they ordered roads to be made straight and the people to make way for the coming of the new King. It is a decree for total subjection of the people. John is telling the people, there is a King that is coming who will be the conquer over sin and death. but he is calling them to prepare the way, to subject themselves to His Lordship even before he comes. The way in this case is from within their hearts to repent and be baptised which opens the way in our hearts to live God's life. Just as John preached in the desert the message is the same for us today. The Lord will search our hearts whether we are ready or not, but His compassion is that he comes to meet a people that are ready. This is why the letter of Peter implores us to strive to be found by Him at peace without spot or blemish. And just how can this be possible? John has the answer in V8 He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit. It is only by the Spirit of God at work within us that enables us to be prepared.

opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.

Be still and silent. Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you. Pray:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we
pray. Amen**



- *Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 40 beginning at Verse 1

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² 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.

³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ 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. ⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

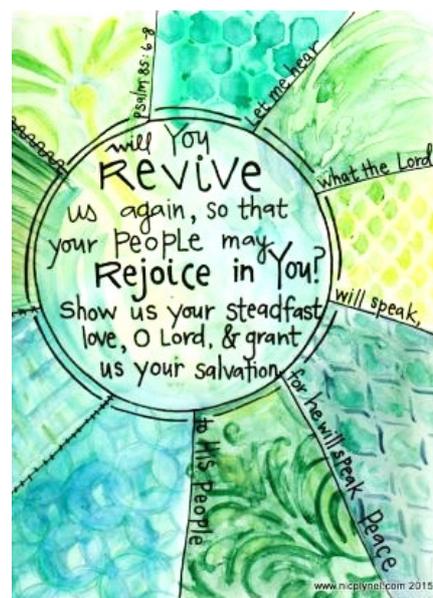


⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹ 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!" ¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ 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. [NRSV Isaiah 40:1-11]

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

- 1 O Lord, you were gracious to your land:
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people:
and covered all their sin.
- 8 I will hear what the Lord God will speak:
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful ones, whose hearts are turned to him.
- 9 Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:
and his glory shall dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth are met together:
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- 11 Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will also give us all that is good:
and our land shall yield its plenty.
- 13 For righteousness shall go before him:
and tread the path before his feet.



A reading from the second letter of Peter, Chapter 3 beginning at Verse 8

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of



which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. [NRSV 2 Peter 3:8-15a]

Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God.***

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, Chapter 1 beginning at verse 1

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.



[NRSV Mark 1:1-8] This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

• ***eating reflectively and responding to the passage***

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

He will speak peace to those who turn to him in their hearts

A Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.



Advent is a time we prepare our hearts and souls for the coming of the Lord, not just in remembering the nativity but His return once again to all of His creation. Our baptism is not a one-off thing, it is something we hold so dearly as our daily commitment to die to self and be renewed by Him living a life that is without spot or blemish. Isaiah called to the nation of Israel who had lost their way. They had turned off the straight path of righteousness to live without God and they had paid the consequences. Their hearts had hardened, and they believed they could get along without God. It is God’s righteousness within us that cleanses us from spots and heals us from blemishes. How easy is it to think that we can discard his righteousness for our own quick fix solutions; when all along He has the answers and keeps His promises and puts His life, the Holy Spirit, within us. His life is His Word and the Word of our God will stand forever, never to wither or fade away.

• **prayer-time** Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith.



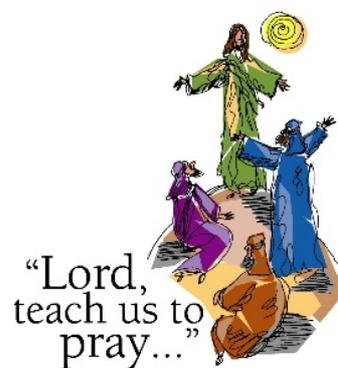
Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer.

David, Ron & Ann; Kathy; Pat ;Izabelle; Peta ; Mariette; Joanne; Peter G, Peter C; Nicholas B; Samantha; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Brenda; Pat; Brendon; Fr Peter; Fr Percy & Betty; Bp David; Bill; David H; Marjorie; Diane; Jean; Mitchell and family; Kathy; Carolyn;; Angela; Carol; Shirley; Lucy Ann; Margaret, Lyn; Ted & Joyce; Irene; Linda; Tina; Wendy; Chris; Trevor; Liz; Tristan & Trish S; Lainie and Nicholas; John Carroll; Jac Bishop, Joan; Joanie; Andrew; Kerrie; Mary, Margaret’s mum, Kate, Lynn, Colin, Cathy, Carole, Allison, Ann, Jean and Betty *and any others we wish to say either silently or aloud.*

Let us say the Lord’s Prayer Together. Our Father

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God,
you sent your messengers the prophets
preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:
give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,
that we may greet with joy
the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



to



Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.

***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be amongst us and remain with us always.
Amen.***

Intentional connection beyond your home

After our Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with a person who is on your heart and mind at this time. It might be one of the people you invited to your meal, or a member of your family, or someone who doesn’t have family, or a friend, Let God guide you to the person or people with whom you connect. Contact the person. Start a conversation: ‘I was thinking of you.....’ Or What did you think of..... in songs of praise etc.

