



Sunday Worship at home 12th December 2021 Advent 3

Opening Prayers:

O Lord open our lips

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem
and see the glory that is coming from God **Amen**

Invitation to confession:

Jesus says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand".
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, we're sorry for the times we've forgotten you:

Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus we're sorry for the times we've been unkind:

Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, thank you for never forgetting us:

Lord have mercy

God the Father:

have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins
and bring us to eternal life. Amen

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for your son:
give us the courage to speak your truth,
to hunger for justice and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings: Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,* John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with* the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his

hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Reflection on the readings.

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday, the moment when Advent lightens up. Gaudete means "rejoice" and is the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, a verse which sometimes starts a church service. In our readings St Paul writes to the Christians at Philippi, telling them to cheer up, and St John the Baptist preaches the Good News to the crowds that gather around him, very appropriate as the meaning of the word Gospel is Good News. Traditionally, the vestments worn for Gaudete Sunday are pink or rose-coloured but not all churches have a set so purple will still be worn, however the third Advent candle lit today will be the pink one. So, like the Philippians and despite all the doom and gloom around us, may we all take the advice of Paul and cheer up. The Good News we have is that the celebration of Jesus' birth draws near and that God loves each and every one of us. Amen

The Creed

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Be still and Pray: Include the needs of the world and your family and community. The work of Governments throughout the world. We pray for the good health of the Queen, all clergy at this time, the homeless and those suffering loss of jobs. Pray for comfort and peace for those who are ill especially Lesley Sainsbury, Bill Donald, Sarah Kelly and any others known to you. Pray for the souls of those who have died recently especially Joan Benton, Richard Drake, Lawrence Robinson, Barbara Brown Albert Rainbow, Peter Bonar. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses;
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

Blessing:

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,
The Lord look kindly on you and give you his peace.

Amen