

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Reading 1:**           **Philippians 1: 3 - 11**

**Gospel:**           **Luke 3: 1 - 6**

**Advent Candle 2:**

God our Father,  
you spoke to the prophets of old  
of a Saviour who would bring peace.  
You helped them to spread the joyful message  
of his coming kingdom.  
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
to share with those around us  
the good news of your power and love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.  
**Amen.**

Watch at all times, praying for the strength  
to stand with confidence before the Son of Man

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
Let us be glad in it.

**Psalm: 85: 1 – 2, 8 - end**

LORD, you were favourable to your land  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.  
<sup>2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin.  
<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.  
<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.  
<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.  
<sup>12</sup> The LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
<sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.

**Song:** (*click link*) Christ be our Light    <https://youtu.be/wiNILT8BJTU>

**Invitation to Confession**

Christ, the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
In His light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**Confession:**

Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.      Amen.

**Absolution:**

May the God of love and power  
Forgive us and free us from our sins,  
Heal and strengthen us by His Spirit,  
And raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.      Amen.

**Reading1:    Philippians 1: 3 – 11**

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart,<sup>[a]</sup> for all of you share in God's grace<sup>[a]</sup> with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*This is the word of the Lord.*      Thanks be to God

**Gospel:      Luke 3: 1 – 6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler<sup>[a]</sup> of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.  
<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

*This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

**Talk: Rev'd. Ken** <https://youtu.be/gIZunt1VwSw>

## **The Creed**

*We say together in faith:*

Holy, Holy, Holy  
Is the Lord God Almighty,  
Who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:  
for by His will they were created  
and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:  
For with His blood,  
He purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:  
the Spirit and the Bride say “Come!”  
even so come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.

## **Prayers of Intercession:**

*(Please add in names and circumstances known to you in the appropriate place)*

United in the company of the faithful  
and looking for the coming of the Kingdom  
let us offer our prayers to God,  
the source of all Holiness.

Merciful Lord,  
strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit,  
that we may live as a royal priesthood and a Holy nation  
to the praise of Jesus Christ our saviour.  
Lord, have mercy.

Bless Guli, Adam and Roger, our bishops  
and all who minister in your church,  
that by faithful proclamation of your word  
we may be built on the foundation of the

apostles and prophets  
into a Holy temple in the Lord.  
Lord, have mercy.

Empower us by the gift of your Holy and life giving Spirit,  
that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ  
from glory to glory  
Lord, have mercy

Give to the world and its peoples  
the peace that comes from above,  
that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.  
Lord, have mercy.

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the service of the poor and needy;  
all who minister to the sick and dying;  
and all who bring light to those in darkness  
Lord, have mercy.

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin or disfigured by pain,  
that, raised from death to life in Christ,  
their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy.  
Lord, have mercy.

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us,  
who have been well pleasing to you from eternity;  
preserve in your faith your servants on earth,  
guide us to your kingdom  
and grant us peace at all times.  
Lord, have mercy.

Hasten the day when many will come  
from east and west, from north and south,  
and sit at your table in your kingdom.  
Lord, have mercy.

Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
thanksgiving and honour and power,  
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

**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.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name  
Your kingdom come  
Your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread  
and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom the power and the glory  
are yours now and forever.        Amen.

*Usually, at this point in the service, we take up our offering;  
let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God  
and give Him thanks.*

**Song:** *(click link)*    O Come all ye Faithful    <https://youtu.be/zw-FAqx9kpw>

**Blessing:**

May God Himself, the God of peace,  
make us perfect and Holy;  
and keep us all safe and blameless, in spirit, mind and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.....

...and the blessing of God almighty  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be with us, and all those whom we love,  
this day and always.        Amen

*As we come to the end of this service we can remember each other as we have tea, coffee and  
biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.*

*Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.*