



THE SUNDAY SHEET  
ADVENT 2  
4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022

*A very warm welcome as we gather for the Parish Eucharist.  
An induction loop is provided.*

*Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Please inform one of the stewards/sidespersons who will pass the information on to the clergy. Many thanks*

ENTRANCE HYMN

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;  
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;  
'cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day.'

Wakened by the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us haste with tears of sorrow,  
one and all to be forgiven;

That when next he comes in glory,  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
with his mercy he may shield us,  
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might, and blessing  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while eternal ages run.

*Edward Caswall 1814-1878*

*Tune: Merton*

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world  
**a light no darkness can quench.**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets,  
but in our days you speak through your Son,  
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.  
Grant us, your people, to walk in his light,  
that we may be found ready and watching  
when he comes again in glory and judgement;  
for you are our light and our salvation.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## THE COLLECT

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## ISAIAH II. 1-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

For the word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

Earth was waiting, spent and restless,  
 with a mingled hope and fear,  
 faithful men and women praying,  
 ‘Surely, Lord, the day is near:  
 the Desire of all the nations –  
 it is time he should appear.

Then the Spirit of the Highest  
 to a virgin meek came down,  
 and he burdened her with blessing,  
 and he pained her with renown;  
 for she bore the Lord’s anointed  
 for his cross and for his crown.

Earth has groaned and laboured for him  
 since the ages first began,  
 for in him was hid the secret  
 which through all the ages ran –  
 Son of Mary, Son of David,  
 Son of God, and Son of Man.

*Walter Chalmers Smith 1824-1908*

*Tune: Picardy*

### MATTHEW 3. 1-12

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
 make his paths straight.” ’

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy

of repentance. Do not presume 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.

‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### OFFERTORY HYMN

God has spoken – by his prophets,  
spoken his unchanging word;  
each from age to age proclaiming  
God the one, the righteous Lord;  
in the world’s despair and turmoil  
one firm anchor holds us fast:  
God eternal reigns for ever,  
God the first and God the last.

God has spoken – by Christ Jesus,  
Christ, the everlasting Son;  
brightness of the Father’s glory,  
with the Father ever one:  
spoken by the Word incarnate,  
Life, before all time began,  
Light of Light to earth descending,  
God, revealed as Son of Man.

God is speaking – by his Spirit  
speaking to our hearts again;  
in the ageless Word declaring  
God’s own message, now as then.  
Through the rise and fall of nations  
one sure faith is holding fast:  
God abides, his word unchanging,  
God the first and God the last.

*George Wallace Briggs 1875-1959*

*Tune: Blaenwern*

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of hope,  
renew in us the joy of your salvation  
and make us a living sacrifice to you;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## HYMN AT THE END OF COMMUNION

Wait for the Lord,  
whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord,  
keep watch, take heart. (*Sung through 3 times*)

*Taize Community*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, here you have nourished us with the food of life;  
through our sharing in this holy sacrament  
teach us to judge wisely earthly things  
and to yearn for things heavenly.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## FINAL HYMN

Great is the darkness that covers the earth,  
oppression, injustice and pain;  
nations are slipping in hopeless despair,  
though many have come in your name –  
watching while sanity dies,  
touched by the madness and lies.

*Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,  
pour out your Spirit we pray;  
come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,  
pour out your Spirit on us today.*

May now your Church rise with power and love,  
this glorious gospel proclaim;  
in every nation salvation will come  
to those who believe in your name.

Help us bring light to this world,  
that we might speed your return.

Great celebrations on that final day,  
when out from the heavens you come;  
darkness will vanish, all sorrow will end,  
and rulers will bow at your throne;  
our great commission complete;  
then face to face we shall meet.

*Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,  
pour out your Spirit we pray;  
come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,  
pour out your Spirit on us today.*

*Gerald Coates & Noel Richards*

CCL No: 961722

## NOTICES

**Refreshments.** Please do join us for refreshments after the service if you can.

**Foodbank.** The Foodbank box is now back in the Parish Church. Donations gratefully received.

**Praying for Growth.** Please pray for the growth and renewal of the Church here in this place. Here is the Leading Your Church into Growth Prayer (*card copies are available at the back of the Church*):

*God of Mission,  
Who alone brings growth to your Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give  
Vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions,  
Joy to our worship,  
And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you,  
And in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Christmas Coffee Morning** at the Parish Church on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 10am. A warm welcome is extended to all.

**Evensong by Candlelight** takes place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Collection and raffle in aid of the Cathedral Choir.

**Could you please put in your prayer diary:** A time of 'An Oasis of Calm' an outreach event, when the morning of Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December will be set aside for a pre-Christmas time of peace and quiet between 9.15 and 12 noon. Posters and fliers will be put out the week before.

**Funeral.** Jim Whetton's funeral will take place at St Asaph Crematorium on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. His family have really appreciated the support of our congregation.

The next meeting of the **Kentigern Guild** will be at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December in

the parish church. Speaker Sarah Wheat "County Lines". All welcome.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### 5<sup>th</sup> Monday – Paulinus, Abbot

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist *at the Cathedral*

5pm Evening Prayer

6pm Emergency Services Carol Service

### 6<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Nicholas, Bishop

9am Morning Prayer

6pm Evening Prayer

7pm Holy Eucharist *at the Cathedral*

### 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Ember Day

9am Morning Prayer

10.30am Holy Eucharist *at the Cathedral*

5pm Evening Prayer

7pm Advent Confirmation Service

### 8<sup>th</sup> Thursday – The Conception of

**the BVM**

9am Morning Prayer

10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*

2pm Forget me not Tea *at the Parish Church*

5pm Evening Prayer

6.30pm Tenovus "Lovelight"

### 9<sup>th</sup> Friday – Ember Day

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Offeren (*Welsh Eucharist*)

1.30pm Fairholme School Carols

6pm Choral Evensong

### 10<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Ember Day

9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

7pm St Asaph Choral Society Concert

### 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Advent 3 (Gaudete)

9.30am The Parish Eucharist

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

6pm Evensong by Candlelight

*Followed by Mince pies & Mulled Wine and a raffle in aid of the Cathedral Choir*