

St Saviour's Church

10 December 2017 - Advent 2 (PREPARATION)



Prepare ye the way of the Lord! Yet, how does one do this? Is this command for me as an individual or for us as a community? These and other questions abound when we hear again the story of John the Baptist and his ministry of preparation. Advent (like Lent) is penitential in nature and tone in which we are called to look again at how we relate to God and God's activity in history, in the world today and in our own lives. We 'know' God is active yet we often forget and lose sight of this. Thus in Advent we feel the need to return to the Lord in moments of conversion, penitence and reconciliation.

Parish Notes:

Advent Benediction - St Saviour's today at 6pm (Sun 10 December).

Cardiff Churches Nightshelter There will be a training session tomorrow Monday 11 December in St German's Hall at 7pm for all our helpers. We also have a collection of smaller items for the homeless: hats, scarfs, socks, gloves etc.

Reconciliation Service - St Saviour's at 7pm on 13 December. A chance to reconnect with the mercy and forgiveness of God in time for Christmas. This is very similar to penitential and healing services with a focus on renewing our desire to live in right relationship with God as a way of preparing for Christmas.

Cardiff Foodbank - Urgent items: tinned tomatoes, fruit juice (concentrate), rice pudding tins, sponge pudding, tinned fruit. Not needed: beans, cereals, tea, pasta.

Posada - If you'd like to be part of this year's posada please sign the list at the back of the Church. For more details see our website.

Flowers at Christmas - Parishioners wishing to order Christmas flowers should see Gwyneth for order forms & prices. Final orders & monies by Sun 17th Dec please.

Praying the O Antiphons - in the week before Christmas we will have some quiet reflections at 7pm, inspired by the O Antiphons (prophetic titles of Christ).

Rotas - We are looking to update our church tea & cleaning rotas and are hoping to recruit a few more helpers for both groups. Please see Liz if you can help us.

Carols and a Cuppa - Noon on Sat 23 Dec when we will offer a warm drink and carols. We'll also be supporting the 'Great Christmas Get Together'.

Christian Unity - the week of prayer for Christian Unity is 18-25 January 2018.

There will be a Churches Together meeting in St Alban's Presbytery this Tues 12 December at 2pm for those interested in Ecumenism and this year's joint service.

This week:

Mon 11:

6pm Mass (St G)
St Damasus

Tues 12:

10am Mass (St S)
Our Lady of
Guadalupe

Wed 13:

9:30 School Nativity
Concert (St G)
St Lucy

Thur 14:

5:45pm Mass (St S)
St John of the Cross

Fri 15:

6pm Mass (St S)

Sat 16:

11am Mass (St S.)

Sun 17: Advent 3

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;
7:00pm O Antiphon
Reflections 'O Sapientia'

St German's:

11:00 am Sung Mass

Keep in touch:

Parish Priest:

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READINGS THIS WEEK

Isa 40:1-11
Ps 85
2 Pet 3:8-15
Mark 1:1-8

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Isa 61:1-2a, 10-11
Luke 1:46-55
1 Thess 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

PSALM RESPONSE

'Let us see, O Lord,
your mercy, and give
us your saving
help' (3vs)

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.**

GATHERING:

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh. Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin: make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Saviour, Lord, our refuge and our great reward. Without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more. O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

JESSE TREE SONG

Hanging in the branches of this Jesse tree; see the love of Jesus and his family. Here we see his goodness and his light and power shining through the darkness 'til the final hour

Prophets, men and women all received his word: promise of the coming of the mighty Lord. Born into his family, in the church of God may we share the faith of God in flesh and blood.

So, in sign and symbol, so in branch and tree, may we tell the story of the One in Three. Through the Holy Spirit Christ is in our sight: Promise of the Father full of grace and light.

OFFERTORY:

I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship, should set his love upon the sons of men, or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers, to bring them back, they know not how or when. But this I know, that he was born of Mary when Beth'lem's manger was his only home, and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured, and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently he suffered, as with his peace he graced this place of tears, or how his heart upon the cross was broken, the crown of pain to three and thirty years. But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear and lifts the burden from the heavy laden; for still the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations, how he will claim his earthly heritage, how satisfy the needs and aspirations of east and west, of sinner and of sage. But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory, and he shall reap the harvest he has sown, and some glad day his sun will shine in splendour when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship, when at his bidding every storm is stilled, or who can say how great the jubilation when every heart with love and joy is filled. But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture, and myriad myriad human voices sing, and earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth, will answer, 'at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

COMMUNION:

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

FINAL HYMN:

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness, Sing and praise your God and mine! Great the Lord in love and wisdom, Might and majesty divine! He who framed the starry heavens Knows and names them as they shine Fill your hearts with joy and gladness, Sing and praise your God and mine!

Praise the Lord, his people, praise him! Wounded souls his comfort know. Those who fear him find his mercies, Peace for pain and joy for woe; Humble hearts are high exalted, Human pride and power laid low. Praise the Lord, his people, praise him! Wounded souls his comfort know.

Praise the Lord for times and seasons, Cloud and sunshine, wind and rain; Spring to melt the snows of winter Till the waters flow again; Grass upon the mountain pastures, Golden valleys thick with grain. Praise the Lord for times and seasons, Cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness, Peace and plenty crown your days! Love his laws, declare his judgements, Walk in all his words and ways; He the Lord and we his children, Praise the Lord, all people, praise! Fill your hearts with joy and gladness, Peace and plenty crown your days!

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Isaiah 40

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*Let us see, O Lord, your mercy,
and give us your saving help*

I will hear what
the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near
for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

R/

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

R/

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

R/

Psalms 85

SECOND READING:

A reading from St Paul’s first letter
to the Corinthians.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

2 Peter 3:8-4

GOSPEL:

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to St Mark.

The beginning of the good news of
Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
‘See, I am sending my messenger
ahead of you, who will prepare your

way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”’, John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And 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. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Mark 13:33-37