

Third Sunday of Advent 15th December 2024



Advent Prayer

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true:
To you be praise and glory for ever!
Your prophet John the Baptist
was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to Him
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our saviour and king of the ages
Blessed be God for ever.

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers
and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare
and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to
the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming
to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable
people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the
Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading (Zephaniah 3.14-20)

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.
Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter

Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Psalm—Canticle (Isaiah 12)



Response: Sing and shout for joy!

Truly God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. **/R**

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel. **/R**

Second Reading (Philippians 4.4-7)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.
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)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. 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

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord,
for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

For your prayers

In our Prayers: Hugh, Josh, Diane Rankin, Lloyd Whitney, Diane, Trevor, Vera, Chris Hall, Tommy Lacken, Sue, Kathy, Maria Amparo Garcia, Maria, Lenny Shaw, Pat, Vanessa, Eamon Irvine, HM King Charles, Steve, Tracey Sanderson, Fr Michael Shier, Michelle Ferguson, Maria Vaccaro, Robert Russell, Carol Martin, Nancy Campling, Philomena Sorrenti, Martin Fletcher, Jan Bone, Francis Burrows.

Fr Peter Rabin, Lynn Williamson, Ms Rebecca Quansah, Dr Alfred Kwasi Kwarteng, Nancy Mandich.

Among the departed: Terry Naylor

Anniversaries of Death: Emily Saunders, June Ives, Jeffrey Score, George Lock (Verger), Robert Wheatley, Maud Lowe, Anna Jane Phillips, Helen Sugarman, James Ives

In the Parish: We pray for those working in retail and distribution at this busy time of year; Seward Street and Pear Tree Street

In the wider world: We Pray for all those with influence and authority in Syria to bring an end to the civil war, a just peace, reconciliation and rebuilding.

Notices

Wednesday 18th December

Open Church 10am-1pm

11am "Walking Backwards to Christmas"
The Christmas Story from a different angle
12.30pm Mass
7pm "Beer and Carols"
at the Corner Street Bar, King Square

Next Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent

9am Said Mass
10.30am Christingle Mass

Helpers needed after Mass!

Can you help out after Sunday Mass? There's plenty to do clearing up and putting things away once refreshments are finished. If you can please speak to Elaine or Father David.

Christmas Day Lunch at St Luke's Centre,

Instead of spending Christmas day alone, local residents are warmly invited to join other locals, St Luke's staff and volunteers for a traditional, three-course lunch and festive fun. If you live in EC1 and need help getting to and from the Centre, or you would like any more information, please contact us. Please book in advance via reception – a £10 donation is suggested, to help with food costs.

St. Clement's Church is very grateful for all donations to our work. To donate now please scan the QR code below. You can use debit or credit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay. Many thanks!

