

BRENTOR CHURCH

6th December 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent

Led by

The Reverend Tony Vigars with
the Reverend Dr Hazel Butland



We warmly welcome everyone
joining our service

Welcome and lighting the second
Advent candle.

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.**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: Come thou Long-Expected Jesus

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Confession

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart ...
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.
Christ came in humility to share our lives:
forgive our pride.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ came with good news for all people:
forgive our silence.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Christ came in love to a world of suffering:
forgive our self-centredness.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive *us our* sins, open *our* eyes to God's truth,
strengthen *us* to do God's will
and give *us* the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent

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.**

First Reading: Isaiah 40: v1-11

40 Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry? All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"
¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85

1 Lord, you were gracious to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
2 **You forgave the offence of your people
and covered all their sins.**
8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say,
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,
that they turn not again to folly.
9 **Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**
10 Mercy and truth are met together,
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
11 **Truth shall spring up from the earth
and righteousness look down from heaven.**
12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
13 **Righteousness shall go before him
and direct his steps in the way.**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3: v8-15a

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him. This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: The Lord's My Shepherd

1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul.
*And I will trust in you alone.
And I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.*
(Descant)
*I will trust, I will trust in you.
I will trust, I will trust in you.
Endless mercy follows me,
Goodness will lead me home.*

2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.
Refrain

3 And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.
Refrain

Gospel Reading

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1: v1-8

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ 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. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ 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. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Intercessions & Notices

Peace

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

The Peace of the Lord with you:

And also with you.

Hymn: In a World where People Walk in Darkness

1 In a world where people walk in darkness,
let us turn our faces to the light,
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,
to the daystar scattering our night.
*For the light is stronger than the darkness
and the day will overcome the night,*

*though the shadows linger all around us,
let us turn our faces to the light.*

2 In a world where suffering of the helpless
casts a shadow all along the way,
let us bear the cross of Christ with gladness
and proclaim the dawning of the day.

Refrain

3 Let us light a candle in the darkness,
in the face of death a sign of life;
as a sign of hope where all seemed hopeless,
as a sign of peace in place of strife.

Refrain

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory. **Amen.**

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,

we now watch for the day when

Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven

to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice

made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection

until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death,

rising you restored our life:

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes

and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with all the saints

to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours,

O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on 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.**

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,

but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;

that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Father of all,

we give you thanks and praise,

that when we were still far off

you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Dying and living, he declared your love,

gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;

we who drink his cup bring life to others;

we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: How Great Thou Art

- 1 O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!*
- 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;
Refrain
- 3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in.
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin:
Refrain
- 4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!
Refrain

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing ...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen



Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Please pray for all who are ill or anxious at home or in hospital, and those who have asked for our prayers: Mick, Chris Vigers, Nick & Julie, Dave & Wendy, Heather, Sally and Jimmy Hubbard, Edward Walter, Lydia, Margaret, Bill Tucker, Lin Bristow and David.

Please pray for the souls of the recently departed, especially for Sallie Briggs and Pearl Feist their families and friends.

Your prayers this week are asked for:

Mon- Hope for success with the vaccine.

Tues- Those working to help all those struggling with the current situation.

Wed- All those working in HMRC all hours, assisting the furloughed workers.

Thurs- Families worried about the pressures of the commercial Christmas.

Fri- All the emergency services working together during continuing challenging times.

Sat- Christians celebrating the Advent journey.

Next week:

9:45- Prayer and Praise with Mrs Wendy Roderick

Donations to support the upkeep of the building and the work of the church are welcome. If you would like to make a regular donation, please contact either David or Helen Harris about the Parish Giving Scheme.

Online donations can be made at <https://www.give.net/20188530>