

BRENTOR CHURCH

Sunday 10th December 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

Family Service

Led by

Amanda Harris

and Sally Pancheri LLM



We warmly welcome everyone joining our service
All children (quiet or noisy) are welcome to church, toys are at the back,
and parents, please don't worry about them!

Welcome

We light the Second Advent candle.

Bring your thoughts, bring your feelings,
bring your busyness, bring your chaos,
bring your calm, bring your worries,
bring your hopes and your fears.
Bring it all here – and put it all down for a while...
and let the light of God fill the space.

Amen.

We gather to pray together

Lord, we come because we want to see you today,
we come because we want to hear your story,
we come because we want to experience your love,
we come because we want to encounter you in our lives.

Amen.

We sing together:

A&M 42 Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness



Human Rights Day 75 years
Watch video



Let's say sorry to God

You made us to be one family,
yet we have divided humanity.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You were born a Jew to reconcile all people,
yet we have brought disharmony amongst races.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You rejoice in our differences,
yet we make them a cause of enmity.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Minister

May almighty God ,

Who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,

Bring us his pardon and peace, now and forever.

Amen.

Let's sing together...

A&M 635 For the Healing of the Nations.

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 for ever.

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: v1-2 and v8 -13

¹ LORD, you were favourable to your land;

you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

² **You forgave the iniquity of your people;**

you pardoned all their sin.

⁸ 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.

⁹ **Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,**

that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

¹² The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.**

Gospel Reading- Mark 1: v1-8

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

All Glory to you, O Lord

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

Talk: Amanda Harris

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Let us bring our prayers to God....

*The Collect for the **Second Sunday of Advent***

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All 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.

**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 for ever.**

Amen.

Let us sing together...

Long Ago, Prophets Knew

Let us pray....

Almighty God,
we thank you for the gift of your holy word.

May it be a lantern to our feet,
a light upon our paths,
and a strength to our lives.

Take us and use us
to love and serve all people
in the power of the Holy Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing

May the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be with us all this day and for evermore. **Amen.**




Reflection

*'Christianity, if false, is of no importance,
and if true, of infinite importance. The only
thing it cannot be is moderately important.'*

C.S.Lewis.

**This Christmas take the risk of discussing this statement
above with friends and family, and share why Jesus is
important to you, and discuss how you believe he
impacts on your life.**



Please pray for all who are ill or anxious at home or in hospital, and those who have asked for our prayers: Lin Bristow, Peter and Carol Cameron, Dave, Becky, Shirley, Val, Steve, Zach, Diana, Harry, Cheryl, Ali, Archie, Kim, Phil, Nick, Charlie and Tyler, Felicity, Carol, Fay and Hazel.

Please pray for the souls of the recently departed, their family and friends

Your prayers this week are asked for:

Mon Following the International Human Rights Day, we pray for all those around the world whose human rights are ignored or violated.

Tues All those struggling with the flooding and difficult weather conditions

Wed Those worrying about finances over the Christmas season

Thu The health services preparing for a challenging winter

Fri Charities supporting all those in need

Sat For all the events and services over Advent and the Christmas season

This evening at Christ Church

5pm: Carols by Candlelight with Wendy Roderick

Next Sunday, at Christ Church

10.00am Holy Communion with the Reverend Tony Vigers

Please also continue enjoying our Services online see the brentorchurch.org.uk

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>

