

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

23 December 2018

HYMNS

312 Once in Royal David's City

270 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

272 Come Thou Tong Expected Jesus

302 The Angel Gabriel

Item Joseph's song

What Child is This

Solo The Word of Life

303 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

A & A 312, 279, 272, 302, item, 303



SENTENCE

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

COLLECT

Gracious God,
you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son:
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

READINGS

A reading from the prophet Micah:

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up

until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Micah 5.2-5a

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

We say the verses from Psalm 80 alternately:

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock;

Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation.

Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears; you give them abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Psalm 80.1-8

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews:

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10.5-10

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Luke 1.39-45

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

PRAYERS

Anglican Church: Diocese of Kubwa, Nigeria (Bp Duke Akamisoko); Diocese of Ballarat (Bp Garry Weatherill, Clergy & People); Ivanhoe Grammar School (Gerard Foley, Principal); St Mark's Fitzroy (Stuart Soley); Christmas Eucharist, Melbourne Assessment Prison (Bp Genieve Blackwell).

For the parish: Give thanks for those who support our parish life: the Op Shop team, Maintenance committee, the Parish Treasurer and office support, and those who contribute through rostered help at each centre; and pray that they do this all in the name of Jesus, who called people to serve others.

For the sick or in need: Keiran & Paul, Gail Lubie, Sally Newson, Michael M, Joan, John B, Will, Deirdre, Yvonne, Sam McGowan, Alan, Jane, Veronica, Mary Sixsmith, Tom, Boris & Maie Zorica and those known to us in need of our prayers.

Community of the sick: Heather Weiss, Therese Cummins, Don, Alec Baker, Fiona Tunley, Jenny Stewart, Chris Erving, Glen Bechly, Russ Pickering

This community are those who need ongoing prayers for strength, courage, and peace of heart, mind and soul as they journey onwards.

Give thanks: for the blessings shared and remembered at Christmas, be mindful and prayerful for those who are unable celebrate, in trouble or distress, or for whom Christmas is a time of sadness and loneliness.

Please inform the Parish Office if any of these people have recovered, for which we can give thanks; also any other answered prayers of significance are invited for sharing through the pew-sheet.

Year's Mind

Birthdays & Anniversaries

23rd Michele White

25th Barry Butcher

31st Ray Hannan

31st Alistair & Julienne Walsh (anniv)