

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15 December 2020

## HYMNS

Advent wreath hymn by Mark Earey  
(b. 1965) from Sing Praise

1. Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray;  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness  
changed for gladness on that Day.

2. Prophet voices loudly crying,  
making pathways clear;  
glimpsing glory, self-denying,  
calling all to hear.  
Through their message - challenged,  
shaken -  
hearts awaken: God is near!

3. John the Baptist, by his preaching



and by water poured,  
brought to those who heard his teaching  
news of hope restored:  
'Keep your vision strong and steady,  
and be ready for the Lord.'

## SENTENCE

Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God.

## COLLECT

Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son: grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power and glory to establish his rule of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## READINGS

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-

hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

*Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11*

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

We say the verses of Psalm 126 alternately:

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with songs of joy.**

Then said they among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'

**The Lord has indeed done great things for us, and therefore we rejoiced.**

Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, as the river beds of the desert.

**Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.

*Psalm 126*

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Christians in Thessalonika:

We appeal to you, sisters and brothers, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you

repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the sisters and brothers with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*1 Thessalonians 5. 12-28*

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

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
**Alleluia!**

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*John 1.6-8, 19-28*

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

## PRAYERS

**Anglican Church:** Pray for the Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury) (Bp Timothy Thornton); The Diocese of The Murray (Bp Keith Dalby, Clergy & People); Beaconhills College (Tony Sheumack, Principal; Peggy Kruse, Chaplain); The Parish of Holy Trinity, Bacchus Marsh w. Christ Church, Myrniong and St George's Balliang (Richard Litjens, Heidin Kunoo).

**For the Parish:** Give thanks for those who facilitate worship or nurture our faith: Eucharistic Assistants, musicians, St Aidan's Group, Torquay Home Group, Mainly Music Team, Group Meditation; and pray that they may be inspired by the way that Jesus nurtured the faith of others.

**For the sick & in need:** Keiran & Paul, Gail Lubie, Sally Newson, Joan B, John Bell, Deirdre B, Jane M, Boris & Maie Z, Judy B, Pauline R, Elizabeth N, Norma M, Kaye and Barry M, Tina M, Rosalind B, Lorraine D, and those known to us in need of our prayers.

**Community of the sick:** Don, Alec Baker, Fiona Tunley, Jenny Stewart

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

### Year's Mind

*14th Heide Maguire (2012)*

*16th Jim Webb (2016), Judith Todd (2000)*

*17th Glen Clement*

### Birthdays

*19th John & Barbara Morrissy,  
Dallas Richmond*