



# The **SECOND SUNDAY** of **ADVENT**

**6th December 2020**

Welcome to St Mary's on the Second Sunday of Advent. Our president and preacher today is Fr Martin and our organist is Philip Bailey.

If you are attending the service in person, please sign in on arrival, sanitise, wear a mask (unless exempted), and observe social distancing. Please also wait for directions to go up for communion, which we will be receiving in one kind only.

To join us online, go to: <https://bit.ly/StMarysKT>.

You can also join the service by phone on **020 8080 6591**. When prompted, key in the **Meeting ID: 981 5467 9178** and **Password: 254560**.

This service will be recorded and posted online afterwards.

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING (Isaiah 40, verses 1–11)**

**Reader: Martin Bartholomew**

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

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.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

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.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

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.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
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!'  
See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
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. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 85, verses 1–2, 8–13**

*Refrain:*

**Show us your mercy, O Lord.**

Lord, you were gracious to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the offence of your people  
and covered all their sins.

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.

Truly his salvation is near to those who fear him;  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

**Show us your mercy, O Lord.**

Mercy and truth are met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth;  
and righteousness look down from heaven.

**Show us your mercy, O Lord.**

The Lord will indeed give all that is good;  
and our land will yield its increase.  
Righteousness shall go before him;  
And direct his steps in the way.

**Show us your mercy, O Lord.**

## **THE EPISTLE (2 Peter 3, verses 8–15a)**

**Reader: Adina Michael-Titus**

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. 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. 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.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, 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? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

This is the word of The Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL (Mark 1, verses 1–8)**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

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

This is the Gospel of The Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The **HOMILY**, by **Fr Andrew**

The **INTERCESSIONS**, led by **Paul Stacey**

The **LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

## **THIS WEEK'S SERVICES AND EVENTS**

**MONDAY, 8 am – 1pm:** Big Issue sales; visitors welcome from 10 am.

**MONDAY, 9.30 am:** Morning Prayer (BCP).

**MONDAY, 6 pm:** Brighton Aerial Arts (Hall).

**TUESDAY, 6 pm:** Brighton Aerial Arts (Hall).

**TUESDAY, 6.30 pm:** Evening Prayer.

**TUESDAY, 7.15 pm:** Choir Rehearsal (Hall).

**TUESDAY, 7.15 pm:** Actually Gay Men's Chorus rehearsal.

**WEDNESDAY, 8.30 am:** Morning Prayer.

**WEDNESDAY, 10 am – 1 pm:** Big Issue sales; visitors welcome from 10am.

**WEDNESDAY, 12.30 pm:** Midweek Eucharist with The Revd Canon Neil Milmine.

**WEDNESDAY, 2.30 pm:** Brighton Women's Centre Foodbank (Hall).

**WEDNESDAY, 6 pm:** Brighton Aerial Arts (Hall).

**THURSDAY, 4 pm:** Young Actors Group (Hall).

**THURSDAY, 7.15 pm:** Actually Gay Men's Chorus rehearsal.

**FRIDAY, 9.30 am:** Morning Prayer.

**FRIDAY, 10 am – 1pm:** Big Issue sales; visitors welcome from 10 am.

**SATURDAY, 10.45 am:** AA Newcomers (Hall).

**SATURDAY, 12 noon:** Bike for Life Cycle Maintenance Course (Hall).

**SUNDAY, 10 am:** Said Eucharist for Third Sunday of Advent.

**SUNDAY, 5 pm:** Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

**CHRISTMAS CLEAN – Saturday, 12 December, 10am**

**CAROL SERVICE – Sunday, 13 December, 5pm**

*Enquiries about baptism, confirmation, marriage, funerals, confessions, and counselling may be made to the Vicar, **Fr Andrew Woodward**, by phone: 01273 698601 or email: [ruraldeanbrighton@gmail.com](mailto:ruraldeanbrighton@gmail.com).*

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