



The THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT

13th December 2020

Welcome to St Mary's on the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday. 'Gaudete' is Latin for *rejoice* and today the penitential aspects of Advent are lessened in favour of the joy of anticipation at Christ's coming, hence the solemn purple of Advent gives way to a softer, rose pink. Our president and preacher this morning is Fr Mike and our organist is Anthony Wilson.

If you are attending 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 receive 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 64, verses 1–4, 8–11)

Reader: Luci Sale

The servant of the Lord said:

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

PSALM 126

Refrain:

The Lord has indeed done great things for us.

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.

The Lord has indeed done great things for us.

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.

The Lord has indeed done great things for us.

THE EPISTLE (1 Thessalonians 5, verses 16–24)

Reader: Paul Stacey

My brothers and sisters, 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.

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

THE GOSPEL (John 1, verses 6–8, 19–28)

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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

The **HOMILY**, by **Fr Mike Fudger**

The **INTERCESSIONS**, led by **Jane Chetwynd-Appleton**

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, 17.45 pm: Brighton Aerial Arts (Hall).

TUESDAY, 6.30 pm: Evening Prayer.

TUESDAY, 7 pm: Actually Gay Men's Chorus rehearsal.

TUESDAY, 7.15 pm: St Mary's Choir Rehearsal (Hall).

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 Fr Andrew.

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

WEDNESDAY, 17.45 pm: Brighton Aerial Arts (Hall).

THURSDAY, 2 pm: AA meeting (Hall).

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

THURSDAY, 7 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.

FRIDAY, 7.30pm: Actually Gay Men's Chorus Christmas Concert.

SATURDAY, 10.45 am: AA Newcomers (Hall).

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

SATURDAY, 7.30pm: Actually Gay Men's Chorus Christmas Concert.

SUNDAY, 10 am: Said Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE – Today, 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.*

www.stmaryschurchbrighton.org.uk

www.facebook.com/brightonstmary