



The **FOURTH SUNDAY** of **ADVENT**

20th December 2020

Welcome to St Mary's on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Our president today is Fr Martin, our preacher is Margaret Green, and our organist is Andrew Beazley.

If you are attending the service in person, please sign in on arrival, sanitise your hands, 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 (2 Samuel 7, verses 1–11, 16)

Reader: Michael Folkard

Now when David the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and

I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

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

THE MAGNIFICAT

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.**

THE EPISTLE (Romans 16, verses 25–27)

Reader: Richard Hall

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

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

THE GOSPEL (Luke 1, verses 26–38)

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

The **HOMILY**, by Margaret Green

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, 2 pm: AA Meeting (Hall).

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

TUESDAY, 6.30 pm: Evening Prayer.

TUESDAY, 7.15 pm: Choir Practice (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).

THURSDAY, 2 pm: AA Meeting.

THURSDAY – Christmas Eve, 3 pm: Crib Service.

THURSDAY – Christmas Eve, 11.15 pm: Midnight Mass of the Nativity.

FRIDAY – Christmas Day, 10 am: Said Eucharist for Christmas Day.

FRIDAY – Christmas Day, 12 noon: Free Take-out Christmas Lunch (Hall).

SATURDAY, 10.45 am: AA Newcomers (Hall).

SUNDAY, 10 am: Said Eucharist.

MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE NATIVITY

Thursday, 11.15pm

Our beautiful Midnight Mass celebrating the birth of Christ is on Thursday, Christmas Eve, beginning at 11.15pm; it ends around 12.15 am. The service will be live-streamed on our regular Zoom meeting details for those who would like to watch from home. If you would like to attend in person, it would help us with the seating if you could email info@stmaryschurchbrighton.org.uk with your name and a contact phone number.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH, Friday, 12 – 1pm

At 12 noon on Christmas Day, in partnership with St Anne's Day Centre, we will be offering a free festive take-away lunch from the church hall. Please pass on the news to anyone who would like to take advantage of this.

We wish everyone a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

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.

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