# 11 December 2022 - Advent 3

# The Greeting - Hello and Welcome

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all **and also with you**

O Lord, open our lips
**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**
Let us worship the Lord.
**All praise to his name.**

*The prayer ends with these words:*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
**Blessed be God for ever.**

# Child in the manger - Hymn 151

1 Child in the manger,
infant of Mary,
outcast and stranger,
Lord of all!
Child who inherits ͜
all our transgressions,
all our demerits
on him fall

2 Once the most holy
child of salvation,
gentle and lowly,
lived below;
now, as our glorious
mighty redeemer,
See him victorious
o’er each foe

3 Prophets foretold him,
infant of wonder;
angels behold him
on his throne;
worthy our Saviour
of all their praises;
happy for ever ͜
are his own.

# Penitence - saying sorry

**O God, our loving Father in heaven,**
**we confess that we have sinned against you;**

**we have broken your commandments;**
**we have often been selfish,**
**and we have not loved you as we should.**

**For these and all our sins, forgive us, we pray:**
**through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# Forgiveness - a reminder of God’s gift

# Preparing - to hear God’s word

Your word is a lantern to my feet
**and a light upon our path.**
O Lord, your word is everlasting:
**it stands firm for ever in the heavens.**

Let us then receive the word of the Lord.
**So may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.**

# Isaiah 35:1–10 - please be seated

A reading from Isaiah chapter 35 beginning at verse 1

1 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus,
2 it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.
3 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;
4 say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”
5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
6 Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
7 The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.
8 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.

9 No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there,
10 and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

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

# 3rd Advent Candle

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.

# Sunday Club Begins

# Psalm 146:5–10 - we stand to say

4 Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,
**whose hope is in the Lord their God;**

5 He made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them;
**he keeps his promise for ever;**

6 He gives justice to those that suffer wrong
**and bread to those who hunger**.

7 The Lord looses those that are bound;
**the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;**

8 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
**the Lord loves the righteous and watches over the stranger in the land**

he upholds the orphan and widow;
**but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.**

10 The Lord shall reign for ever,
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;•
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

# Matthew 11:2–11 - Please be seated

A reading from Matthew chapter 11 beginning at verse 2

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples
3 to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”
4 Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see:
5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.
6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”
7 As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind?
8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces.
9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
10 This is the one about whom it is written: “ ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

# Speak, O Lord - Thanks & Praise 134

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your holy word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
All your purposes, for your glory.

2 Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see,
your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3 Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we’ll stand on your promises;
and by faith we’ll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, ’til your church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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# Collect of the Word - Our Journey

# The Sermon - with PREACHER

# Hymn 126 - Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding.
“Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
“Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day.”

2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

4 that when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

# Declaring Faith - affirming our belief

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made the world? **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed mankind? **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God? **I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church. **This is our faith.**
**We believe and trust in One God,**
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

# Praying Together - Intercessions

Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

# Sunday Collect - The Third Sunday of Advent

# The Lord’s Prayer - we pray with Jesus

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**
**hallowed be thy name,**
**thy kingdom come,**
**thy will be done,**
**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**
**And forgive us our trespasses**
**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**
**And lead us not into temptation,**
**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**
**the power, and the glory,**
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

# Collection Hymn 166 - Joy to the world

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room,
and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

# A Thanksgiving - we give thanks to God

let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

# The Blessing - and Dismissal

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

# Come thou long expected Jesus - Closing Hymn 119

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thy own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

# At the door

We go into the world **to walk in God’s light,**
**to rejoice in God’s love** **and to reflect God’s glory.**

# Notices - 11 December 2022

**Community Carols** – Lough Moss at 4:00 pm

**Scouts Carols**– Tonight at 6:00 pm

**Monday Cadenza Concert**
– 7:30 pm in St Ignatius’ - £12 per head, children under 12 free

**Sunday 18th**– Nativity Service at 10:00 am in St Ignatius
- Combined Lessons and Carols at 3:00 pm in St Andrew’s

**Christmas Eve in St Ignatius’** – Carols and Communion from 11:00 pm

**Christmas Day in St Andrew’s** – 9:30 am Christmas Communion

**Christmas Day in St Ignatius’**
– 8:30 am Early Communion
- 10:30 am All age service