

Connected

Sunday 12th December 2021
3rd Sunday of Advent

Verse For The Week

The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.

(Zephaniah 3: 17)

Sermon Snippets

(Zephaniah 3: 14-20)

Hurray! Nehemiah has done his job and the walls of Jerusalem are standing again.

This Sunday we glance at Zephaniah. His name means 'Yahweh has hidden', and he lived before Nehemiah, which means that the old walls of Jerusalem are still there. Zephaniah is prophesying that the people will be turned out of Jerusalem because of their wickedness. But the survivors will come back in Nehemiah's time.

They are turned out and some are turned back.
Have we been turned back to God?

Covid Update

Following recent developments with Covid, and following Government guidelines, we are now asking everyone to wear masks at all times in church.

This applies to both congregations starting this Sunday. Further updates will be given when we receive more information.

A Brief History of Christingle

The name comes from an old German word *Christkindl*, meaning Christ child.



Photo: The Children's Society

In 1747 a Bishop in the Moravian Church in Germany, Johannes de Watteville, gave children a lighted candle with a red ribbon round it. This represented Jesus, The Light of the World. A special prayer was said at the end of the service:

"Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become".

Over the years the Moravian Church spread the tradition as part of the Protestant Missionary Movement. It was popularised in the United Kingdom by John Pensom in 1968. He was raising funds for The Children's Society, a charity that we continue to support through the Christingle services.

The symbolism evolved over the years into what we know today, which is as follows:

- An orange, representing the world
- A lit candle, representing Jesus, The Light of the World
- A red ribbon wrapped round the orange to represent the blood of Christ
- Four sticks pointing in different directions, symbolising the four points of the compass
- Fruit or sweets representing the fruits of the earth and also the four seasons

Watch this Sunday's Service

at www.ccwsn.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' menu and click on the 'Sunday Services' page.

Prayer Pointers

Theme: Rejoice, the Lord is near. Come Lord Jesus.

Response: Come Lord, for our hope is in you.

Monday:

Lord you challenge and inspire us. Pray for Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous and Winter Warmth - regular visitors to Emmanuel. Pray for the church throughout the world that it may witness to God in word and deed; that it may reflect His love for all. Pray for control of emerging Covid19 variants, a willingness to be vaccinated, and fair vaccine distribution globally.

Tuesday:

Lord you demand equality and justice. Pray for CAP, Food Bank and all volunteers within NHS/Social Care, RNLI, Citizens Advice, YMCA and many more supporting services. Ask God to move the hearts of all in positions of power to rely on truth above status. Remember all who are oppressed by tyranny and evil, driven away from homes, jobs, loved ones, countries and all they have ever known.

Wednesday:

Lord you excite us with your presence and promises. Pray for the missions we support across the world including TEAR Fund and Christian Aid. Pray for all who are struggling with their relationships and mental health, and whose minds are full of doubt, that they come to know God's love.

Thursday:

Lord pour out your compassion and mercy. Pray for today's Town Hall Carol Service and carol singing in Church Square. Pray for God's blessing on all who suffer with a disability or who are ill with Covid19, cancer and other illnesses, as well as those who have lost loved ones.

Friday:

Lord you give life to all in this world and the next. Pray for the Carols by Candlelight service at Emmanuel and then take a moment to bring to God in prayer whatever is on your heart today....

Saturday:

Pray for all who are preparing the services of worship for tomorrow, including Carols by Candlelight at Christ Church, that they may bring joy, hope and encouragement to all this Christmas. Pray for our vicar Tom, our curate Larissa and their families at this busy and challenging time.

Notices

also see 'What's On This Week' on page 3)

C of E Safeguarding Training

This is a reminder that all volunteers who hold a church DBS certificate are required to do Safeguarding training every 3 years.

Most of us are now in the position that we need to renew our training as it is out of date. Please can you log on to the Safeguarding Training Portal: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> Scroll down and click on "create an account" and follow the instructions. Please make a note of the user name and password you use for future use.

If you have any questions please contact Anne.

Reserving Seats for Christmas

If you're hoping to come to the Nativity Service on Christmas Eve or the Christ Church Carols by Candlelight service on the 19th December, don't forget to reserve seats in advance. There are still some seats available at both services.

Bible Notes

If you have ordered Bible Notes, these will be available for collection in church this Sunday.

Wednesday Communion Services

A reminder that there will be no service on Wednesday 22nd December. The next midweek Communion will be at 10.30 on the 12th January at Emmanuel.



North Somerset's choral ensemble presents a feast of Christmas carols.

Monday 20th December at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10 and can be obtained from

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/weston-super-mare/weston-museum/christmas-concert/2021-12-20/19:30/t-epjxq>

Please contact Weston Museum for more details.

Coffee time after the Service...

What A Difference A Year Makes



This time last year to the day I spent a bright, sunny, cold day before yet another lock-down with my sister walking and picnicking on Brean Down to celebrate my birthday. I had no idea then that scientists would actually be able to create a safe and effective vaccine against the virus that was curtailing our freedom and making so many people very seriously ill all over the world, or that the NHS would be able to distribute it so effectively to all of us in this country.

One year later I spent another equally bright, sunny and cold day this time walking around Cheddar reservoir before enjoying a delicious pub lunch in Axbridge square having had a Covid19 booster vaccination the day before. I was reminded just how much we all have to be grateful for, from the beautiful county we live in to the amazing care we receive from the NHS and many other services, as well as the pleasure of once again being able to spend time out and about and at home with family and friends, even if emerging virus variants mean that we will have to be careful about how we do this over the coming winter months.



May God continue to bless us all so richly in the coming year.

Sheila

What's On This Week

Sun 12 Dec

Christingle Service at 4pm at Christ Church

Mon 13 Dec

Ladies Together at 2.30pm in the Spire Centre

Tue 14 Dec

Parish Prayers at 09.30 at Emmanuel Church

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel Church

Thu 16 Dec

Town Hall Service at 12.30pm at Emmanuel Church

Carol Singing in Church Square at 2pm

Fri 17 Dec

Carols by Candlelight at 7pm at Emmanuel Church

Sun 19 Dec

Carols by Candlelight at 6pm at Christ Church

Wheelchair Available



If you, or someone you know, can make use of this wheelchair, please have a word with Angie and Ian.

Contact Details

Rev. Tom Webber (Day off - Tuesday)

t: (01934) 709343

e: vicar@ccwsm.org.uk

Rev. Larissa Trust (Day off - Tuesday)

t: (07379) 754372

e: curate@ccwsm.org.uk

Church Office (08.30-12.30 Mon-Fri)

t: (01934) 641016

e: office@ccwsm.org.uk

w: www.ccwsm.org.uk