

Connected

Sunday 4th December 2022

2nd Sunday Of Advent



Sermon Snippets

Christ Church
Isaiah 9: 2-7



The bus route from my house is on a reasonably straight road so, when I'm waiting for a bus, I can see when it gets to the previous stop. That is the most frustrating time of the wait because it always seems to take ages to load the passengers there. It seems so near but frustratingly isn't here yet. What do you do when you are waiting - whether it's for a bus or for dinnertime or for a special day like a birthday or Christmas? Are you a daydreamer, a fiddler, a fidget, or look for a distraction by, say, taking out your phone?

God's people are often left wondering why God doesn't move a bit quicker, why it seems to take ages for Him to fulfil his promises. Is it just us who are waiting or is God also waiting and what for? What should we do while we are waiting? We are looking today at how one prophet expresses the hope and the wait of God's people.



Emmanuel
Mark 1: 1-8

John the Baptist on centre-stage as the forerunner of the Lord Jesus. What was he so concerned to preach about so vividly and sometimes so rudely to anyone who would listen?

Why do we always bring him in at Advent? Would you have liked to meet this hairy prophet from the wilderness? What does he mean telling me to 'repent' anyway?

It all has to do with the LORD Jesus.

Healing & Wholeness Service

Sunday 4th December at 6pm

Probably, like me, you have been drawing yourself together for all the Christmas season brings - where you will be / who's coming to stay / the card list / presents etc, etc. It can be quite a frenetic time full of a lot of busyness.

Although for many it's a joyful time, the whole of December can rush past in a blur and the real meaning of Christmas can get crowded out.

We'd love to invite you to join us for the 6pm service this Sunday at Christ Church where we'll be giving ourselves a bit of space to prepare well for all that's to come and to reflect on the meaning of the season.

It'll take the format of one of our "healing and wholeness" services which a number have found really helpful. We'd love to see you.

Tom



What's On This Week

Saturday 3rd December

Christmas Coffee Morning: 10am-1pm at Christ Church

Sunday 4th December

Healing & Wholeness Service at 6pm at Christ Church

Monday 5th December

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 6th December

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 7th December

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

(please note that this event is currently full)

(last session before Christmas)

Thursday 8th December

Craft & Chat at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

(last session before Christmas)

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

JaM Club at 3:30pm at Christ Church

(pre-registration is required for the above event)

Parenting for Faith at 7:30pm in The Spire Centre

Sunday 11th December

Christingle Service at 4pm at Christ Church

Christmas Notices!

Volunteers for Christmas Services

If you are able to help with various jobs during/after our Christmas Services, please sign-up on the sheet at the back of church. Thank you.

Christingles

If you would like to help pack Christingle bags in readiness for the service on 11th December, please speak to Nicky Boardman for details.

Christmas Invites

There are now some Christmas invites available to pass on to your friends, family, & neighbours.

If you would like to take a batch to deliver to a specific road please ensure you let Emma in the Church Office know in order that there are not duplications!

Verse For The Week

" And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit'. "

Mark 1: 7-8

Prayer Pointers

Monday

It is Advent Tide and, as our thoughts turn to the birth of our Lord at Christmas, let us pray that the Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all Mankind promised by the angels will alight on our troubled world.

Tuesday

Pray for those who, unlike us, cannot gather together at this time to praise the Lord with carols because, under oppressive regimes, their faith must remain hidden or their churches have been closed down. Pray that freedom of worship will prevail throughout the world.

Wednesday

Pray for members of our Church in poor health at this time. Pray also for their partners caring for them who may be experiencing stress and worry. Ask the Lord for healing and comfort.

Thursday

We often take for granted all the things that come to us regularly each day: say a prayer of thanks for food to eat, friends to meet, a home to return to each day, and for the love of your family. Give thanks too for God's love, also given to us regularly each day and so easily taken for granted.

Friday

Pray for our brothers and sisters in northern Nigeria where so many are killed by muslim extremists and many young women are abducted into forced marriages and conversion to Islam. Plead for the Lord to spare them from further suffering.

Saturday

As we began the week praying for peace for the world, let us end with a prayer for our own personal peace: if you are anxious, exhausted, in poor health, or have had a trying time this week, pray that in the coming week you may rest in the certainty that we can never drift beyond God's love and care.

Coffee after the Service...



Christ Church Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd December
10am til 1pm

- Children's Corner
 - Book & Puzzle Stall
 - Cakes, Chutneys, Edibles
- Come & join us!



Christ Church Carol Service

If you would like to be part of the choir/orchestra at this year's Carol Service at Christ Church (to be held on Sunday 18th December), please contact Andy or Helen Page - they would welcome singers and players of all ages to join them!

BIBLE READING NOTES

Final few days to order your Bible reading notes - orders to be placed by **Sunday 4th December** please.

You can do this via the following link which takes you to our website: <https://ccwsm.org.uk/product-category/bible-notes/> or pass your order form (with payment for one year's subscription) to Sandra Wilkes. Payment can be made via the website or by cheque, cash, or card.

Carol Singing In Care Homes

We are planning on visiting various Care Homes around the parish for some carol singing on the afternoons of Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th December.



Please sign-up on the sheet at the back of church if you would like to take part on either one or both of these afternoons.



Emmanuel Coffee Morning

**Saturday
3rd December
10:30am-12noon**

Emmanuel are holding a coffee morning this Saturday to sell off some remaining items from last week's Christmas Bazaar!



TURNING STAMPS INTO BIBLES

Please save used Christmas Stamps, (NOT the standard everyday ones) and place them in the Stamp Box on the table inside the Church door. It would be helpful if a 5mm border be cut round each one.

British Special Issue stamps and foreign ones are also collected throughout the year.

The sale money raised enables The Bible Society to provide affordable Bibles around the world for people hungry to read the Word of God for themselves.



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