Christ Church and Emmanuel, Weston-super-Mare

Connected

Sunday 22nd November 2026 — Sunday Next Before Advent

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church

Job 38: 1-11 + Mark 4: 35-41

Mark's whole gospel revolves around one question: Who is this? It comes up here in the words of his own disciples: Who is this (Jesus)?

In this account of the calming of the storm, we see yet more that is truly awesome, even incredible, about Jesus. Like God himself, Jesus has power and authority to still waves and hold back wind.

The raw exchanges between the disciples and Jesus reveal that they have yet to find the faith Jesus is looking for. Have we?





We will be marking Safeguarding Sunday at Christ Church this week. For more information regarding this, please see last week's Connected.

Emmanuel

Ezekiel 34: 11–16, 20–24 + Matthew 25: 31–46

Contrast the Old Testament focus on "race and place" - where nations and ethnic groups are preoccupied with borders and exclusion - with the transformative message of Jesus Christ.

Jesus replaces geographical and ethnic divisions with a universal faith driven by grace and practical love. Rather than earning salvation through doctrinal correctness or religious rituals, we are called to express our faith through tangible acts of compassion toward the vulnerable, hungry, and lost.

Ultimately, serving others is serving Jesus himself, bringing us home to the King of Love.



'Blue Christmas' Service - Sunday 29th November at 6pm

It was some 60+ years ago that Elvis Presley had a Christmas hit with 'Blue Christmas' - the song was written before that but he made it famous. The song is about someone not looking forward to Christmas because the one they love will not be there.



It highlighted the fact that not everyone welcomes the hullabaloo, frivolity, and excesses that often go with Christmas. There are those for whom this Christmas will be difficult because someone special will not be there. There are those who feel they no longer have the energy to throw themselves in, whether because of age or illness. There are those for whom Christmas will be negotiating a minefield of tricky family relationships. For some it could be a time of loneliness. And there are others who long for Christmas to bring a peace that includes some quiet for reflection.

If any of that speaks to you, then we hold a service on Advent Sunday each year to help prepare us to get through Christmas. The service will be next Sunday (29th) in Christ Church at 6pm, is open to all and offers a quiet reflection, some ideas to take away, and an opportunity for prayer. Where appropriate, we offer folk an opportunity for the laying-on of hands or anointing with oil for a particular situation where physical, mental, or relationship difficulties are burdensome. The hope is that we will all be able to celebrate Christmas in a way that we find meaningful.

Terry

Prayer Pointers

O Holy One, take our lives & let them be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take our hands & let them move at the impulse of thy love; take our voices & let us sing, always only for our King. Amen.

Church Family:
We pray for all the children's work carried out at Christ Church - where the children learn about being free and accepted in Christ. We pray for all children who are unwell, and for their parents who are desperately trying everything they can, but to no avail. Come to Jesus in prayer - our Heavenly Father has immense love for them all. We ask our Lord to intervene and hold all these children in the palm of His hand. Lord, we also lift up to you our loved ones - those in our Church Family who are sick, suffering, lost, lonely, hurting, or bereaved. We pray for the Christ Church Christmas Fayre on Saturday 28th November and for all those who are helping to make this day so special. We pray that all visitors will have a wonderful, joyful, and peaceful time. Help us to remember that Jesus' love is vital for every single person - so what better time to show His Love for others too!

The Local Area:
We pray for CAP and help for Donna Pilgrim as the green light has been given to form CAP WSM. And for the team as they look at offering freedom from financial debt and liberation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

National Prayer:
We pray for the NHS and all medical services, for the care services, for all who are waiting for appointments, surgery, and care. We pray for our streets and all those who clean and tidy them. We also ask for a change in thought in people to keep our streets tidy.

Global Prayer:
Lord, we hold up to you in prayer all heroes of the past and present years who suffer with post-traumatic stress and scars, and yet try to carry on with daily life. And for those who have suffered immensely due to persecution and violence. We pray for a world where all persons are treated with respect and kindness, and can live in peace with one another.

What's On This Week

Saturday 21st November
Ambassadors Christmas Craft, 10am, The Spire Centre
(for those who have signed-up)

Sunday 22nd November
Christmas Choir practices commence, 12:30pm-2pm

Monday 23rd November
Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 24th November
Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel
The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 25th November
Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

Thursday 26th November
Craft & Chat at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre
Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

Saturday 28th November
Christmas Fayre from 10am-2pm at Christ Church
Active Men's Curry Evening at 7pm at Zeera
(for those who have signed up)

Sunday 29th November
'Blue Christmas' Service at 6pm at Christ Church

Verse For The Week

" (Jesus) got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, 'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?' They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!' "

Mark 4: 39-41

Contact Details

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Church Office (09:30-12:30 Mon-Fri)
t: (01934) 641016
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Coffee after the Service...

Our Candlelit Carol Services

Rehearsals for our Carol Services (7pm on Friday 18th December at Emmanuel and 6pm on Sunday 20th December at Christ Church) start this Sunday (22nd), from 12:30pm-2pm. Bring a packed lunch to church and then join us for rehearsal.

If you would like to be part of the choir but haven't yet signed-up, or for more information, please contact Angeline (Christ Church Music Director) - angeline.white@ccwsm.org.uk



Active Men's Curry Evening



LAST CHANCE TO SIGN-UP THIS WEEKEND...

The Active Men will be enjoying a curry together at Zeera (Orchard Street) on Saturday 28th November at 7pm.

If you would like to come along, please pop your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of Christ Church. Or, for those at Emmanuel, please speak to Paul Sodzi or Emma in the Church Office.

Carol Singing in Care Homes

We are again planning to visit a few of the Care Homes within Christ Church Parish for some carol singing during the afternoons of:
Friday 11th December
Wednesday 16th December
starting from 2:30pm
(folk to meet at Christ Church at 2:15pm)

Please do 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.



We would love for you to join us and spread some Christmas joy around our parish!

Christ Church Christmas Fayre



Saturday 28th November
10am-2pm
(light lunches available)

We would be grateful for donations of the following items for the stalls (which can be brought to the Church Office over this coming week):

- Cakes (& other edibles)
- New/nearly new gift items
- Jigsaws
- Books
- Craft items

Volunteers are needed for various tasks - please pop your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of church if you can help in any way - helping in the kitchen, assisting on stalls, and setting-up/clearing-up.

Thank you.

Emmanuel Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 5th December
10:30am-1:30pm

- Variety of Stalls
- Homemade Cakes
- Refreshments (including new lunch menu!)

If you are able to donate any items for the gift bags please put them in the box at the back of church at Emmanuel. Also, any good quality jewellery and bric-a-brac would be appreciated. Thank you.



More coffee anyone...?

John Knight-Old's Funeral

John Knight-Olds' funeral will be held at Emmanuel on Thursday 26th November at 10:30am

All church family are welcome.





Mince Pies - Emmanuel

We will be in need of boxes of mince pies for all the various carol singing events at Emmanuel - please do bring them to church over the next couple of Sundays.

Christingles

Saturday 12th December (from 10am) in the Spire Centre (Rooms 1+2).

We will be preparing oranges for the Christingle Service on the morning of Saturday 12th December.

If you can help with this, please contact Nicky (family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk)



Ambassadors' Christmas Lunch

If you haven't already done so, (for anyone who signed-up for the Christmas lunch at The Beachlands), please see Kathy Hinchliffe in order to select your menu choices and pay your balance (£20).



Woodspring Wordsmiths,

for Christians writing in any genre, who hope to be published, who are already published, or who write just for fun!

WW is a safe place to encourage each other, discuss any problems, and share our experiences.

Venue: Uphill Methodist Church
4 Uphill Rd S, WsM BS23 4SD
Time: 7.30pm - 9pm
When: First Wednesday of each month
Nov 4th Your piece on 'Remembrance'
Dec 2nd Christmas Social (No meeting in January 2027)
Feb 3rd 'All you need is love'
More info from tavah@gertrudejames.co.uk



Please share this with any writerly friends, and we look forward to seeing you!

(Affiliated with the Association of Christian Writers, but membership not required!)

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

National Collection Week may be over—but Operation Christmas Child 2026 isn't done yet! While we gather and begin to process the 1000's of shoeboxes dropped off last week, you can continue spreading Good News and great joy right up to New Year's Eve through Shoebox Online!

Lost Property

There are still a couple of items of lost property on the table at the back of Christ Church (under the noticeboard) - please do take a look to see if anything is yours.

If these aren't claimed by the end of the month they will be disposed of.

BRIDGWATER CONVENTION

THE GOSPEL THAT UNITES AND DELIGHTS

SAVE THE DATE! 26TH & 27TH FEBRUARY 2027

The Bridgwater Convention will be back in 2027 - dates are now confirmed. For more information on the theme and speakers for next year, please visit: https://bridgwaterconvention.com/

CAP Weston

For information on how you can donate, please do pick up a flyer from the back of church or visit the new website: CAPWSM – CAP is coming back to Weston-super-Mare