

St. Francis of Assisi, Isleworth
www.stfrancis-isleworth.org

Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday December 8th, 2019

Hymns: 263, 527, 282, 646



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Today we continue our journey through Advent focussing on John the Baptist. He called people to turn away from all that was wrong, and to God, very much in the style of an Old Testament prophet – with one significant difference: he knew, and prepared the way for, God’s chosen one, anointed one, and we, too, look for his ‘advent’, his arrival

For your prayers

For the wider Church especially Justin our archbishop, Sarah our bishop, and Graham our area bishop

For the needs of the world

For the United Kingdom as a general election approaches

For our local community

For the sick and the suffering

For the departed especially those whom we have known and loved

Collect

Your kingdom is at hand, O God of justice and peace;
you made John the Baptist its herald to announce the coming of your Christ,
who baptises with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Give us a spirit of repentance to make us worthy of the kingdom
Grant this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

First Reading *Isaiah 11.1-10*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fating together, and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 72*

R In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more.

O God, give your judgment to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice,
and your poor in right judgment. R

In his days shall justice flourish,
and great peace till the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the bounds of the earth. R

For he shall save the needy when they cry,
the poor, and those who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy. R

May his name endure forever,
his name continue like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blest in him,
all nations shall call him blessed. R

Second Reading *Romans 15.4-13*

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name.'

Gospel Reading *Matthew 3.1-12*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."'

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Notices

Refreshments after worship do come into the church hall for tea or coffee after the service. There is also Christmas lunch today for all who said they were coming.

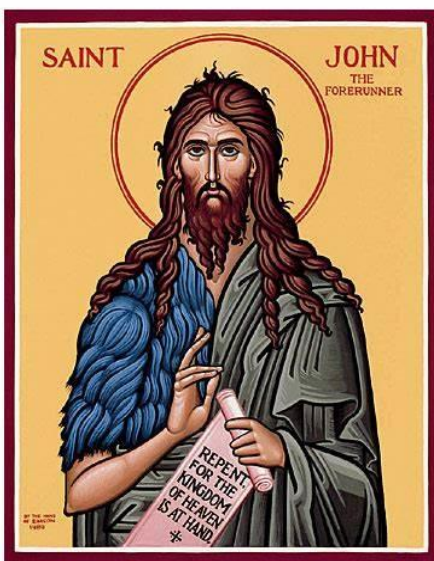
Thursday Eucharist at 10am.

Christmas tree the tree will go up after the service on Sunday December 15th. All help welcome.

Christingle Service will be Sunday December 22nd at 11am.

Christmas Services Christmas Eve: Crib Service at 4pm (with children particularly in mind) and Midnight Mass at 11.30pm; Christmas Day: Holy Communion at 10am.

Personal preparation for Christmas Two ideas to make a good use of Advent. One is to start reading today St. Luke's Gospel, one chapter each day. There are twenty-four, and so by Christmas, we will each have a very good idea whom it is we are celebrating. An alternative is to download the Church of England app 'Follow the Star' which gives a reflection for each of the twelve days of Christmas.



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Ordinands

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