

**The 3rd Sunday of Advent 13th December 2020**  
**Toy Service**  
**Supporting the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal**



The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

*Isaiah 40 verse 5*

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

The lighting of the third candle for Advent

Let us pray

Let us pray

Uncontainable, irrepressible, bubbling up in an explosion of energy. What the weary long for, what our children often embody, what makes the Divine smile – joy. It cannot be paid for, but is a priceless treasure. As we hope for your arrival, as we pray for peace in your living, as we wait and watch and wonder how you might reveal yourself to us, God give us joy in your Advent.

*Light three candles.*

Joy is not a commodity that can be bought or sold, but lives deep in the human spirit. Help us to hear that truth and believe it. Let go of what our consumer culture says will bring us happiness – money, success, a scramble to the top that leaves us flat. If we have robbed others of what they need in our clamour and quest for more than our fair share, forgive us. Help us hear the call of John the Baptist to turn around and begin again. God of love, we were made in joy.

May we live that way. We light a candle for joy.

**May it light the way.**

Let us confess our sins to God our Father. Kneel.

Silence is kept.

Turn to us again, O God our saviour, and let your anger cease from us:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord, and grant us your salvation:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you, that glory may dwell in our  
land:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

The priest pronounces the absolution.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in  
all goodness, and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word - We stand together

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**

God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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.**

Praise the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

**then were we like those who dream.**

Then was our mouth filled with laughter

**and our tongue with songs of joy.**

Then said they among the nations,

**'The Lord has done great things for them.'**

The Lord has indeed done great things for us,

**and therefore we rejoiced.**

Restore again our fortunes, O Lord,

**as the river beds of the desert.**

Those who sow in tears

**shall reap with songs of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,  
**will come back with shouts of joy,  
bearing their sheaves with them.**

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.**

The First lesson : 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the  
Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets,\* but test everything; hold  
fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit  
and soul and body be kept sound\* and blameless at the coming of our  
Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

The Canticle : The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary Luke 1 :46-55

1 My soul proclaims the | greatness · of the | Lord,  
my spirit rejoices · in | God my | Saviour,

2 who has looked with favour on his | lowly | servant;  
from this day all gene|rations · will | call me | blessed;

3† the Almighty has done | great things | for me  
and | holy | is his | name.

4 God has mercy on | those who | fear him,  
from gene|ration · to | gene|ration.

5 The Lord has shown | strength ·with his | arm  
and scattered the | proud in | their con|ceit,

6 casting down the mighty | from their | thrones  
and | lifting | up the | lowly.

7 God has filled the hungry with | good | things and sent the | rich a|way |  
empty.

8 He has come to the aid of his | servant | Israel to re|member ·the |  
promise of | mercy,

9 The promise | made to · our | forebears, to Abraham | and his | children  
· for | ever.

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.**

## The Second Lesson: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.\*' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,\* nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia.**

Sermon - Canon Michael Parker

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us pray - we kneel together

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen

**and grant her government wisdom.**

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness  
**and let your servants shout for joy.**

O Lord, save your people

**and bless those whom you have chosen.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord,

**and let your glory be over all the earth.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us

**and renew us by your Holy Spirit.**

The Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Advent and a collect for use daily In Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life, and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us in all assaults of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in your protection, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

*As we close our prayers we keep silence.*

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen.**  
As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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### **Parish Notices - Including Christmas**

For folks at home. Google St Gall's Church to find our parish website. Put 'St Gall's Church' into YouTube and 'Like' and 'Subscribe' to the St Gall's channel.

For those who missed it before! See below...

### **DIY Advent - Create your own Advent prayer chain**

**\*See the links on the church website - just beside the link for the Sunday service paper!\***

You can create a prayer chain by making one loop of the chain each day in Advent, taking a few moments every day to reflect and pray for what

we are all waiting for – for God’s vision for the world to be realised. The Christian Aid Advent Prayer chain can be used each day as an activity to help us reflect and pray during Advent, provide an opportunity to pray as a whole church family and the daily activities could also be adapted to form the basis of intercessory prayers in a service of worship. The Advent prayer chain will help you to create a decoration in time for Christmas!

### **Our DIY Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy**

Advent at home with a lovely set of thoughts and prayers that you can do at home - with family or alone. Some candles and some prayers to guide you.

**\*\*\*See the links on the church website - just beside the link for the Sunday service paper!\*\*\*\*\***

**Our Church Office** has reopened with three volunteers answering the phone. They are doing a terrific job. Nanette, Mary and Helen have been reaching out and getting in touch. The office is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 until 12 noon. Our office ministry in the coming weeks will be all about reaching out and getting in touch by phone. SO...would you like a chat? Or know someone who would? Call 91853810. Would you like someone to be prayed for? Is there someone in your family who is ill or in need of prayer? Get in touch with the office & the team will pray for them.

### **Supporting the Salvation Army - Sunday 13th December Toy Service**

A huge thank you to everyone who has brought along a toy or gift to donate to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. A BIG thank you to Claire and Neill Farmer - Santa’s little helpers - who will be taking all your donations down to the Salvation Army following this service.



### **Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 6.30 p.m.**

Contact Pauline Smyth on 91852486 to book your seat. We will be maintaining social distancing within the church for this service so spaces are strictly limited for safety reasons.

**Christmas Eve Holy Communion at 10 p.m.** To attend this service you will need to book by contacting Pauline Smyth on 91852486. Limited

seating available in line with government guidance. **You will need to bring a small piece of bread and some wine for communion.** We will celebrate Holy Communion as we normally do - but the congregation will remain seated in the church. Note too the earlier start time - 10 p.m. - this allows for the cleaning of the church after the service to prepare it for the Christmas morning congregation. Our thanks to Pauline for doing this important job.

### **Up-Coming Services in Church**

Subject to any changes due to lockdown developments. Online services still available.

20th December Sunday

10 a.m. - Morning Prayer

6.30 p.m. A Service of Lessons & Carols (Booking necessary. See above)

24th December - Christmas Eve - 10 p.m. Christmas Holy Communion

25th December - Christmas Day - 10 a.m. Christmas Celebration

27th December - Sunday at 10 a.m. - Morning Prayer