



Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

Sunday 10th December 2023 Second Sunday of Advent

Today is the day when we light the second candle on the Advent wreath, which depending on your tradition is about prophecy or peace. Some people today have not lit this today to mark the desperate need in our world for peace and hope. Our prayer is for both.

To be a prophet or prophetic is not about a mystical foretelling of the future. Prophets are people who through faith see how the world should and WILL be: a world full of love, peace and hope. They may very often be quite ordinary - even perhaps extraordinary like John. But they see what is meant to be, even if long into the future, and help those around them to understand what they should do next.

When someone shouts across the street about salvation, do you ever hear them and think - that's a prophet - or, perhaps more likely, they'll get us a bad name... In any case, I suspect that most of us don't listen to much that such people say. So in many ways it is amazing that so many people flocked to hear what John had to say - this man who lived a very austere life, a lot of it in the wilderness, a place of space and silence, where he could reflect and pray. John called people to repent - to turn round and see the world in a new light - to look at things in a different way - and to be baptised. He called them to be cleansed and renewed, to be brought back into the centre of God's love.

Advent offers us the chance to see what is meant to be, and help those around us to understand what they should do next. Advent is our moment to listen to the call to repent. Advent is a time for us to be transformed, and to share God's love with everyone we meet.

God of the wilderness, whose gospel begins with a cry and a summons, take us to a pathless place where we can start again, to taste creation's gifts anew and await the Spirit's touch through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen

Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1.1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight"',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

TODAY

9.30am: **Advent 2** Rev'd Pauline Pearson leads our service

3:30pm: **Christingle Family Fun** at Great Park Community Centre

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7.30pm, Carols on the Green/Salvation Army, **Melbury**

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

12.30pm: Rugby Club, **Lunch Group**

Thurs 2.00pm: Community Room, **Film Club – 'Alleluia'**

Sat 10am, Community Room: **Saturday Café**

7:30pm: Church, **Christmas Festival Carol Service**

Sun 9.30am: **Third Sunday of Advent.** Rev'd Hannah Malcolm leads, Rev'd Gerard presides and preaches.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sun 24th 4:00pm: Church, **Nativity**

11:30pm: Church, **Midnight Mass**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – the link for today's service is <https://bit.ly/StAidanAdvent2>

Christmas Festival Carol Service – Saturday 16th December promises to be a lovely evening of carols and readings for Christmas. With the Colla Voce Chamber Choir and members and friends of The Bewick Orchestra directed by Chris Clinch. Join us for a great musical evening!

BIBLE STUDY - is now on holiday until after Christmas.

FILM CLUB – on Thursday is showing 'Allelulia', a warm, humorous, and deeply moving story about surviving old age.

CHRISTINGLE FAMILY FUN – this afternoon at Great Park Community Centre between 3:30pm – 5pm. We'll have games and crafts, Christmas Carols and Christingle making, all followed by tea. Do come along if you can and bring your friends with you.

ST COLUMBA'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – Also this afternoon at 4.30pm, St Columba's Christmas Tree Festival is coming to an end with 'The Big Sing', so sing some carols and see the Christmas Trees if you haven't already!

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09>

Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS: if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

FOOD BANK – any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank.

PLANNED GIVING - If you would like to set up a regular financial gift to support St Aidan's please click on the following link

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/brunton-park-st-aidan-newcastle-upon-tyne>

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Pauline Pearson and St Columba's, our Bible Study and prayer groups

For the community – St Aidan's Community Centre and Great Park Community Centre, and their Management Committees

For the world – all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

For those in need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg, Martin Seaton, Bruce Smith

For those who have died – Doreen Alsop, Eric Frost, Emma Flynn, Francis Leslie, Lawrence Smith, Cynthia Richardson, Ida Holst, Mervyn Spearing, June Ward, Mattie Hodgeson, Jordan Loftus, Barry Warmsley

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 [St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle www.staidanschurhbruntonpark.co.uk](https://www.staidanschurhbruntonpark.co.uk)