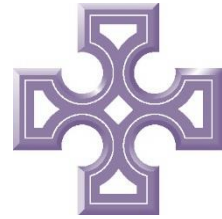




SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



Clemens Schmidt liturgical artist (1901-1984)

The Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Saint John's especially all who are visiting today!

An audio loop system is in operation for those with hearing aids. The order of service is available to download from the website and the 11am is livestreamed on St John's Malone YouTube channel.

Today: Sunday 5th December 2021
9:00am Eucharist
10.30am Sunday First with Nativity Play

9.00am Eucharist ~See service booklet or below for page references in the BCP 2004

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Collect of the Day	
Liturgy of the Word	
Epistle Reading	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
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Gospel (stand)	Luke 21:25-36
Sermon	
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Collect Two

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
Give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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**

Epistle Reading **Philippians 1: 3-11**

3 I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, ^{*}for all of you share in God's grace ^{*}with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle ~ Benedictus page 1907

Gospel Reading

*Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Luke chapter 3 beginning at verse 1 **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

Luke 3: 1-6

3In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in

the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,
'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord,

here you have nourished us with the food of life.

Through our sharing in this holy sacrament

teach us to judge wisely earthly things

and to yearn for things heavenly.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

READINGS:

Philippians 1:3-11: Paul's prayer of thanksgiving for the Philippians, his desire for them to grow in love and purity, and his assurance that Christ will complete the work begun in them.

Benedictus **Luke 1:68-79**: Zechariah's song of thanksgiving for God's rescue of Israel, and his proclamation of his son, John, as the messenger who will prepare the way for God's coming.

Luke 3:1-6: John travels throughout the region of the Jordan River calling people to repentance and baptising them as a sign of their willingness to change, and of God's forgiveness. In doing this John fulfils Isaiah's prophecy of the voice in the wilderness preparing the way for the Lord.

REFLECTIONS ON THEME: In each reading there is a call to prepare to receive God's promise in some way. In Zechariah's song, John is to be the one who prepares God's people for the coming salvation, and to lead them into forgiveness, which implies that they will respond to John's message and follow him into the restoration he promises. In Paul's prayer for the Philippians he expresses his desire for them to grow in love and wisdom, and to trust that God will complete the work that God has begun in them. Finally, the Gospel narrative of John's coming speaks of John's call to the people to repent and be baptised in preparation for the coming one. The message this week, then, is this: God is always coming, always available to God's people, and always working for restoration. But, receiving God's coming takes preparation, and so God sends a messenger to do this work, to prepare God's people for God's coming. The challenge is for us to embrace the work of preparation for ourselves – opening ourselves to God's restoring, cleansing and disturbing work, and making our hearts ready for us to become, in turn, messengers of God's restorative justice and mercy to the world.

Services this week

Wednesday 8th December

7.30pm Zoom Compline Mid-week prayer. Passcodes for Zoom can be emailed to parishioners. Please contact the Rector malone@connor.anglican.org.

Thursday 9th December *Lucy, Martyr* 10.30am with prayer for those in need

A cup of tea/coffee is now available after this service.

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent 12th December

9.00 a.m. Eucharist

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist



Notices:

- Welcome to all our visitors. If you need assistance with anything, please ask one of the churchwardens or stewards
- Under GDPR guidance we need to tell you that we will be recording the service and/or livestreaming today. The cameras will point towards the nave altar and pulpit and only on occasion, towards the entrance doors. Those coming to and from the side areas and exiting will be in the camera view for a short time.
- We are collecting for South Belfast Food Bank on an ongoing basis again. Please leave your contributions in the vestibule on the way in. Thank you.

A reminder about some of our in-church worship protocols:

- Please remain in your seat that has been assigned to you unless it's absolutely necessary to move out of it.
- A one way system remains in place in church as does mandatory handwashing at the cleansing stations on entry and exit. Masks are also worn during worship, on entry and exit and during singing. We ask you to continue to play your part in keeping each other safe. Thank you for your continued cooperation especially as the Covid19 rate rises this winter.
- Observe two metres spacing on the way in and out of church. **Inside the nave distancing is 1 metre in the pews. It is 2 metres in the transepts and choir.**
- If you display any of Covid19 related symptoms you should not come to church. Please observe government testing guidelines and isolation requirements. **If you have been at church and then contract Covid-19 please inform the Rector by Tel:028 9066 6644 or by email malone@connor.anglican.org**
- If you're gathering outside please follow government guidance.
- We continue to Track and Trace so please complete the form at the reverse of this sheet. Records are kept for three weeks and thereafter are disposed of.
- Prayers for the sick are offered on Thursday morning at the Eucharist. Please send names for the list to the Rector via email.
- **Parish Advent book** this year. By Robin Wrigley-Carr it is called **Music of Eternity**. It contains meditations for Advent with the writer and mystic Evelyn

Underhill (1875-1941), known for her works on religion and spiritual practice. A short review is given in the next Parish Magazine. Copies for purchase are available now in church at a discounted rate. Thanks to <https://thebookwell.co.uk/>

St John's Malone



www.malone.connor.anglican.org

@malonestjohns

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The Parish Office can be contacted on any administrative matters, or for information about organisations connected with St John's (90667861) e-mail.secstjohns@btconnect.com

The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644) e-mail malone@connor.anglican.org

Please PRINT your name and the names of any accompanying you today and supply a phone number to enable tracking and tracing. If you become ill with any symptoms of Covid19 *and are subsequently tested positive*, please contact the Rector as soon as possible and follow government guidelines. *Deposit this sheet in the box in the porch on the way out. Thank you.*

NAME:

PHONE:

NAME:

NAME:

NAME:

NAME:

NAME:

NAME:

PEW NUMBER(S) (FOUND AT THE PEW END):

DATE:

Note: Please leave directly from your pew in the church through the north porch as directed by the stewards whilst maintaining 2m distancing.

You may wish to tear off this page when completed and take this booklet away with you.