

Swords into Ploughshares Peter Koenig 20<sup>th</sup> century

## The First Sunday of Advent.

### Year A of Matthew's Gospel begins.

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 10.30am is livestreamed on St John's Malone YouTube channel. Those baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and are communicant members of their own church are welcome to receive Holy Communion, according to conscience.

**Today: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel**

**10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist**

**6:30pm A Service of Lessons & Music for Advent Sunday**

**The Eucharist ~See service booklet for 10:30am if available or below for page references in the BCP 2004**

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Organ Voluntary	Wachet auf (BWV140) J S Bach
Office Setting	How

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**Collect All Face East**

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.**

### First Reading **Isaiah 2: 1-5**

2 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### Second Reading **Romans 13: 11-14**

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Reading

*Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Matthew chapter twenty four beginning at verse thirty six. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

36 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son,<sup>\*</sup> but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day<sup>\*</sup> your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

## Post Communion Prayer

God our deliverer,  
Awaken our hearts  
to prepare the way for the advent of your Son,  
that, with minds purified by the grace of his coming,  
we may serve you faithfully all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Services this week

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> Zoom Compline** is at **7:30pm**. Passcodes for Zoom are emailed in the latest Update to parishioners.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 10.30am Eucharist** with prayer for those in need will take place in the Side Chapel. The prayer list is in the Side chapel.

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

## Next Sunday: Advent II 4.12.22

**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel**

**10.30 a.m. Sunday First**



## Notices:

- Welcome to all our visitors. If you need assistance with anything, please ask one of the Churchwardens.
- 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** again. Please leave your contributions in the vestibule on the way in. Thank you.
- Prayers for the sick and all those in need are offered on Thursday morning at the Eucharist. You can send names for the list to the Rector via his email.
- If you're **new to the parish** please ask the Churchwardens or a member of the clergy about the following: GDPR, Free Will Offering Scheme, Gift Aid Magazine, organisations or wanting to know more about life at St John's. We'd be delighted to help and to get to know you.
- **Coffee/tea** will follow this service as new teams get up and running.
- Parents & Toddlers is meeting again in Seaver Hall Tuesday 10am-11:30am
- Many thanks for all the Christmas Shoeboxes that were left in this year.

## **Organising your wedding in St John's**

Weddings are special occasions in the life of any family and of the Church. We'd be delighted to talk to anyone contemplating their wedding in St John's. When considering getting married please check possible dates with the Rector before confirming any other arrangements. It is expected that couples will make a regular commitment to the life of the Church in preparation for marriage.



## **'BY STREAMS OF WATER': EXPLORING THE PSALMS**

**Parish study course Tuesdays 7:30pm 1st-29th November On Zoom**

This year's Autumn study course in the parish is entitled **'By streams of water': exploring the Psalms.**

The course will be on Zoom: a link to each session will be emailed. Each session will begin at 7:30pm and last for 40 minutes. If you are interested in registering for the course, please email Rev. Brian Crowe at [briandcrowe@aol.com](mailto:briandcrowe@aol.com).

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### **READINGS:**

And so the Lectionary Cycle begins again. This is always an exciting and moving time, as we prepare ourselves for the journey ahead, and begin to open our hearts to a new experience of transformation. Year A is, in a sense, a double beginning, because it starts not just a new year, but also the start of the three year cycle as well.

As is usual for this time of year, the Lectionary begins with our hope in Christ, the coming of God's reign in Christ, and the challenge for us to live from this hope, remembering God's comings in the past, recognising God's comings now, and awaiting God's comings into our future. Just this one day, if embraced mindfully and wholeheartedly, can change us forever.

This week, let's celebrate and open ourselves to the power of God's gift of hope in Christ.

### **READINGS:**

Isaiah 2:1-5: A prophecy of the days when all people will seek to learn God's ways, and God will teach them justice and peace; and an invitation to walk in God's light.

Psalms 122: A song of celebration for Jerusalem, the place of worship, the place where God's people are taught and led by God, and a place for which the Psalmist prays prosperity and peace.

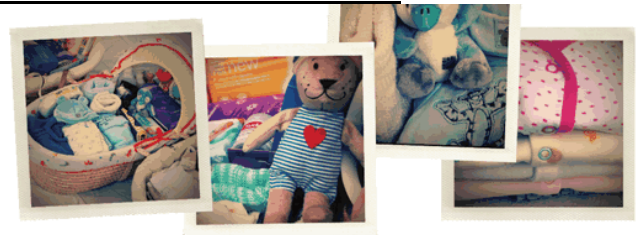
Romans 13:11-14: Believing in the soon coming of God's day of salvation, Paul encourages the believers to live lives of morality, peace and modesty.

Matthew 24:36-44: Because we do not know the day or time when Christ will come, Jesus encourages the believers to be ready at all times.

#### REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

The first Sunday of Advent always leads us to reflect on Christ's Second Coming, which is both problematic and exciting. The problem lies in how we deal with the issue of the Second Coming – especially with the ongoing tendency to try and predict times and dates, and with the possibility that it creates a “pie-in-the-sky” theology for our people. The readings offer us another possibility, though – and this is where the excitement lies. In every reading, the promise of Christ's coming is related back to how we live now – which is as it should be. Isaiah and Paul both invite us into a life lived in God's light – a life of peace, justice and morality. The Psalmist encourages us to pray for peace, and to continue to gather for worship where God's presence and 'judgment' are encountered. Finally, Jesus, encourages us to live in 'readiness' – always aware that Christ's coming is immanent, and avoiding the temptation (unlike those in Noah's day) of growing absorbed in self-interest and personal pleasure (what Paul refers to as 'wild parties').

### **BABY BASICS ST JOHN'S ADVENT APPEAL**



**Please place donations in the Moses Basket at the baptismal font in the North Transept.**

**Monetary donations also acceptable.**

**Closes 11<sup>th</sup> December to allow time for distribution of goods to those in need.**



If you are considering donating any items to the foodbank then we would really appreciate any of the following...

Tinned meat Tinned potatoes/ Smash Long life juice Tinned soup Toiletries Toilet roll Washing up liquid Washing powder You can either pop the items directly into the basket at Tesco Newtownbreda or donate directly to the foodbank.

We are open for donations every Wednesday 1-3pm and every Thursday 10am-12pm.

Our warehouse is Unit 4, 23 Sunwich Street, Belfast, BT6 8HR

Any questions regarding donating please call us on 07743332489 or email us on [info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk)



St John's Malone



ITEMS REQUIRED AT PRESENT: Please place in the baskets in the entrance vestibule/porch. Long life juice; Tinned fish; Tinned spaghetti; Tinned fruit; Jars of jam; Tinned rice pudding; Tinned potatoes or Smash; Toiletries – soap, shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste etc.

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[www.malone.connor.anglican.org](http://www.malone.connor.anglican.org)

@malonestjohns

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*St John's Malone Charities Registration Number NIC101984*

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](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644)

e-mail : [malone@connor.anglican.org](mailto:malone@connor.anglican.org)

***Please take this booklet home with you for the readings, notices and reference during the week and recycle.***