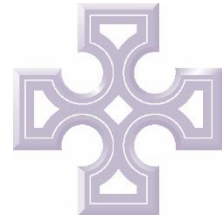




SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



Preaching of Saint John the Baptist. Bruegel, Pieter, 1564-1638. Budapest.

Advent II

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 10th December 2023

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

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

The Eucharist ~*See service booklet for 10:30am if available or below for page*

references in the BCP 2004. 9am pg.201:

The Gathering	<i>page 201/125</i>
Presiding	The Rector
Opening Hymn	491
Collect of the Day	
Liturgy of the Word	
First Reading	
Psalm	85; 1-2, 8-13 pg. 690
Second Reading	
Gradual Hymn	136
Gospel (stand)	
Sermon	The Revd B. Crowe
Peace (stand)	<i>page 207 / 131</i>
Offertory Hymn	162
Liturgy of the Sacrament	Great Thanksgiving (1) <i>page 209</i>
The Lord's Prayer	
Communion	
Motet	How beautiful are the feet - Handel
Great Silence	
Hymn	540
Going Out	
Post Communion Prayers	<i>page 220</i>
Blessing	
Dismissal	
Organ Voluntary	Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659) - J S Bach
Office Setting	Shephard



Collect

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.

First Isaiah 40: 1-11

40 Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² 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.

³ A voice cries out:

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

⁶ 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.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹ 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!'

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ 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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Second Reading 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

⁸ Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.*

¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the

coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

*Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Mark chapter one beginning at verse one. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

Mark 1: 1-8

1The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

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**

NOTICES & ACTIVITIES |

Monday Scouts from 6:30pm

Tuesday Toddler Café 10am-11:30am

Laura Walker Ballet Class from 2-6:30pm laurawalker@hotmail.com

Evening: Guiding Organisations from 6:30pm

Wednesday Zoom Compline 7:30pm details in the email Update. Please email the office if you'd like added to the email Update list secstjohns@btconnect.com

Wednesday 9:30am Reader Ministry Prep. - Edward Darling Room.

Scottish Country Dancing: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month 8-10pm Lynn Rankin 90812249

Thursday 10.30am Eucharist with intercessions for those in need. A cup of coffee is available after this service.

Laura Walker Ballet Class from 2-6:30pm laurawalker@hotmail.com

Parish Choir: 7:30pm contact Mr Richard Campbell organist.stjohns.malone@gmail.com

Pilates in Seaver Hall 7:30-8:30pm contact Catherine catbutler4@yahoo.com

Friday Tango 7:30-10pm petermacauley@talktalk.net -not meeting until the new year.

Next Sunday: Advent II

9:00 Eucharist; 10:30am **A Service of Nine Lesson & Carols for Christmas**



For more information, sign up for the regular email Update at secstjohns@btconnect.com

- Bible Reading Fellowship BRF Notes are available each quarter for the year. Please consider taking some. Please speak to or email Rev. Brian Cadden if you are interested in having the quarterly BRF Notes.
- **Welcome** to all our visitors whether you're joining us in the building or online. 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.

- **Welcome** if you are disabled, unwell, have experiences of cognitive or mental health issues. There is a hearing loop installed in the church for those who need it. Step-free access to church is available through the north porch door and to the halls via the Seaver Hall main door.
- **Welcome** to babies, children and young people. We understand that young children make noise. If your baby becomes upset during the service, you are welcome to go to the back of the church if you need to settle – or to Sunday School in the halls where there is lots of space. Our toilets have baby change facilities.
- **Welcome** to all experiences of race, colour or language. At the Lord's Prayer all are invited to bring the gift of your first language to our worship. You are also welcome if you are LGBTQIA+
- **Welcome** if you are unsure about faith, **Welcome** if you are exploring, **Welcome** if you are here for someone else. We run study courses through the year. These are notified here, in the parish magazine or on Facebook or on our parish website.
- If you need to reach out to our **Safeguarding** team please contact Stephen, Patricia or Tony malone@connor.anglican.org (Rector's email) or see the info posters in the halls.
- We are collecting for **South Belfast Food Bank** again. Please leave your contributions in the vestibule on the way in.
- 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 or add the name(s) on the list in the side chapel.
- 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.
- **Giving and Stewardship** in St Johns' much of our income received is through the Free Will Offering Scheme using either envelopes or increasingly, by Standing Order. Standing order forms are available by asking the Churchwardens or contacting the Office secstjohns@btconnect.com. Alternatively if you wish to make a donation then the account details for St John's are also available from the Wardens. Your donations help us maintain our buildings and support ministry and outreach here in St John's and more widely.
- **Coffee/tea** will follow this service and all are welcome.
- **Parents & Toddlers** meets in Seaver Hall Tuesday 10am-11:30am. All are welcome.

READINGS:

Isaiah 40:1-11: A word of comfort for God's people, because a herald is announcing the coming of God to his people who are as fragile as grass. Yet God comes as a gentle Shepherd to feed and nurture his flock.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13: Thanksgiving that God has forgiven and restored God's people, so God's people should not return to their wicked ways, but rather should listen to what God says, for God's salvation is near, and God's blessings are poured out.

2 Peter 3:8-15a: Peter encourages the believers to live godly lives as they await the passing away of the heavens and the earth and the coming of the new heaven and earth. God is not slow to keep God's promise to do these things, but, in mercy, delays so that people may be saved.

Mark 1:1-8: John the Baptist comes, as a fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy of the voice in the wilderness, and prepares people for the coming of a greater One after him, teaching that, although he baptises with water, the Coming One will baptise with the Holy Spirit.

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

This second week of Advent places the emphasis on those who announce God's coming, and the important role they play in preparing people for the divine encounter. In Isaiah, a herald is announced who will bring comfort to God's people by proclaiming the news of God's coming as a caring and nurturing Shepherd. In Peter's letter, he acts a messenger of God's grace, encouraging the believers to live in hope and righteousness, trusting in God's mercy and the certainty of God's coming, even though it may seem that God is delaying. In the Psalm, God's people are encouraged to listen to what God is saying and not go back to ways of wickedness. Finally, in Mark's Gospel, John the Baptist comes on the scene and is described as a fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy of the voice in the wilderness preparing the way for the coming of the One whom God sends to baptise God's people in the Holy Spirit. Messengers like these have always been an important part of God's "strategy" for working in human affairs. There are always those who are called to prepare others for God's coming and to announce what God is doing. The challenge for our worship in this Advent season, is twofold – to create an environment in which we can listen to God's messengers as a worshipping community and to recognise the ways in which we are called to be messengers to our world in our time.

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The Parish Office for 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 take this booklet home with you for the readings, notices and reference during the week and recycle.