

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10

The prophet declares God's chosen one will come in power, righteousness and wisdom to execute divine judgement and establish peace. His glorious rule will extend over the whole world.

Second Reading: Romans 15: 4-13

Christians are to abound in hope, encouraged by scripture and empowered by the Spirit. Since Christ came for both Jew and Gentile, they should glorify God by living in unity.

Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12

John the Baptist proclaims Christ's imminent coming as saviour and judge. He urges the people to prepare for God's kingdom through baptism and repentance that leads to changed living.

FIRST READING Isaiah 11. 1-10

1 A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
3 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
6 The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
7 The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

SECOND READING Romans 15. 4-13

4 Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

5 May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,

6 so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,
9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name';

10 and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';

11 and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him';

12 and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Matthew 3. 1-12

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

2 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."'

4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan,
6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance.

9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

10 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

12 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy

may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

For Prayer:

Pray for the areas of the world where there is continued conflict and negotiations for peace are ongoing but difficult to reach an agreement.

Pray for the people of South East Asia affected by the recent cyclones and have had their homes and businesses devastated by the flooding.

Pray for all those who find the business and busyness of Christmas challenging whether it be for financial, health or loneliness reasons. Hope that they may find some peace in the knowledge that they may find support if they are able to.

Pray for all those in our church community who are working hard to support the parish during this time.

Take some time to pray for those known only to you.

Those who are acutely sick: Claire Colman, Tim Fletcher, Vera Foster, Owen Goodwin, Roger Gray, Jan Price, Joan Thornton, Carole Sharp, John Sharp, Debbie Whitehead, Jill Williams.

Those with chronic or long-term illness: Jackie Briggs, Margaret Coles, Dorothy Duncanson, Pat Elves, Harry Henderson, Anna Johns, Vicky Johnston,

Carol Muller, Roy Ray, Julia Sherlock, Pam Smith, Bob Whitehead, Jim Wild.

Those who have died: Margaret Dickson, John Elves, Elizabeth Ireland, Allan Medforth, Helen Smith, Gordon Westwick.

DURING THE WEEK

MONDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
TUESDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
	10.00am	Funeral service of t/l Elizabeth Ireland at St Stephen's
	8.00pm	Standing Committee meets
WEDNESDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer followed by coffee at St Stephen's
	10.30am	Tots & Teddies at St Julian's
THURSDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Julian's
	10.30am	Community Café at St Julian's
FRIDAY	10.30am	Community Shed meets at St Stephen's
SATURDAY	6.30pm	Carol Service at St Julian's

Link for Morning Prayer via Zoom link every **Monday**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84282425768?pwd=QaWzIPT4b5mV7a938AbNNYisZIYt3V.1>
Meeting ID: 842 8242 5768
Passcode: 792910

Link for 10.00am Parish Communion Service at St Stephen's
https://youtube.com/live/Ra_qaBE-xmg?feature=share



St Stephen
with St Julian

Second Sunday of Advent

7 December 2025

Welcome to St Stephen's and St Julian's. Whoever you are, wherever you've come from, you are welcome! If this is your first visit, please do introduce yourselves to the clergy and stay for coffee after the service to meet others.

SERVICES TODAY

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Stephens President: Sherine Angus Preacher: Hamish Hamilton
9.30am	Holy Communion at St Julian's President: Charlie Hudson Preacher: Hamish Hamilton
10.00am	Parish Communion at St Stephen's President: Sherine Angus Preacher: Michael Elves Sunday Explorers meet in the hall Sunday Tots meet in the Kentish Room
3.00 – 5.00pm	Cakes & Carol at St Julian's
3.00pm	Concert given by the Quorum Singers at St Stephen's

Next Sunday – Third Sunday of Advent

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Stephens
9.30am	Holy Communion at St Julian's
10.00am	Parish Communion at St Stephen's
4.00pm	Christingle Service at St Stephen's