

Connected

Sunday 7th December 2025

2nd Sunday Of Advent



TO: You
FROM: God

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church *Jeremiah 31: 3-4 (ICB)*

It's always lovely at Christmas to receive a card from friends or family who live far away, reminding us of their love for us. I wonder what a Christmas card from God would look like. What might it say?

Emmanuel *Romans 15: 4-13*

As winter days grow darker and shorter, come, listen! Hope is singing in the darkness.



(Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash)

Psalm 119 Challenge

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path - Psalm 119:105

Back in September we were challenged to read all of Psalm 119, taking a section a day. A couple of people took up the challenge and sent in some reflections. If you weren't able to do it, why not set yourself a New Year Challenge to read it in January...?

Mary Bale read it during her daily time of prayer. She pondered her life journey and how/why she went through the things she's experienced. She heard an inner voice saying: "You went through all you did so you could see with 'new' eyes... you were broken, but I am healing you". Verses 65-72 particularly stood out to her and here's a short snippet from that section: "...You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees... It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold."

Things happen in our life which make it difficult for us to remember that God is good but that's when faith is important as we trust in his tremendous love for us.



As Stella O'Brien read the Psalm, she felt it had been written over a lifetime, with some repetitive lines. Section two mentions a young man trying to learn and obey God's commands. By section four the writer is aware of wrong doing and is repentant, promising to obey God's commands in future. By section eleven, he talks about being worn out, suggesting he is now older. He soon starts mentioning being persecuted. In v152 he says "Long ago I learnt about your instructions" suggesting he is now very old.

Stella struggled with the Psalmist saying he hates those who don't obey God, and the way he doesn't seem sure of his salvation but keeps telling God how well he has kept the law. She realises that he lived long before Jesus came so he doesn't know about the salvation of the cross and has never heard Jesus's words about loving your enemy.

Sometimes we read things in the Bible that we struggle with or which don't make sense to us at first. How do you think forgiveness and justice come together in the Bible?



Prayer Pointers

Monday : We pray for our world suffering in so many ways because of changing climate. Guide all countries to do the right things to help the situation. But we thank you Lord that we can know you are in charge.

Tuesday : We pray for our Life Groups, especially the leaders as they seek to share God's Word, and for all the discussions that ensue. May the Holy Spirit guide all that is said and prayed about.

Wednesday : We continue to pray about all the wars and unrest around your world, that you will somehow bring peace and understanding.

Thursday : We pray for all those who have fled or are fleeing war situations and are now having to live in huge refugee camps with food shortages and no life outside their tents. We pray also for all the agencies seeking to help, that they will be provided with the necessary supplies.

Friday : Despite all that people have got wrong in the world, we can still praise you for all that you have given us. Though we let you down and turn away from your presence, you never forget us, never give up on us, and never stop loving us. Thank you.

Saturday : God of all, Three in One and One in Three, we praise you that you have called us to be your children, your friends, and your people. Receive now our worship, offered to you in awe and wonder, in joy and thanksgiving. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, receive our praise.

Sunday : We bring before you those who are part of our lives, family, and friends, and all those we meet. All things are yours. We entrust them to your keeping.

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' menu and click on the 'Sunday Services' page

What's On This Week

Friday 5th December

Ambassador's Christmas Lunch at 1pm at Beachlands
(for those who have signed-up)

Saturday 6th December

Christ Church Christmas Fayre from 10am-2pm
Coffee Morning from 10:30am-12noon at Emmanuel

Monday 8th December

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 9th December

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel
The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 10th December

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church
Holy Communion at 10:30am at Emmanuel

Thursday 11th December

Craft & Chat at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre
Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

Friday 12th December

Carol Singing in Care Homes from 2:15pm
(meet at Christ Church at 2pm)

Saturday 13th December

Christingle Making at 10am in The Spire Centre

Sunday 14th December

Christingle Service at 4pm at Christ Church

Christmas Notices!

Church Office Closed

Please note that the Church Office is now closed until Tuesday 9th December. It will also be closed from Monday 22nd December til Friday 2nd January inclusive.

Christmas Invitations

There are now some Christmas invitations available to pass on to your friends, family, & neighbours. If you are able to take a batch of invites to deliver to a specific road within our Parish, please speak to Emma in the Church Office. Thank you.

Volunteers for Christmas Services

If you are able to help with various jobs during/after our Christmas Services at Christ Church, please sign-up on the sheet at the back of church. Thank you.

Christmas Cards

Please check the pigeon holes for Christmas cards!

Coffee after the Service...

Christ Church Christmas Fayre

Do come and join us
this Saturday,
6th December, from
10am til 2pm

We would love to
see you there!

Carol Singing in Care Homes

Please do sign-up on the sheet at the back of church if you are available to join us for carol singing in some local Care Homes on either one or both of the following afternoons (we are particularly keen for some extra folk to join us on the Friday):

Friday 12th &/or
Wednesday 17th
starting from 2:15pm
(meet at Christ
Church at 2pm)



Our Christmas Services!

Christ Church & Emmanuel

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'

Luke 2: 10-11



Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas

Christ Church

Montpelier, BS23 2RH

website: www.ccwsm.org.uk

Chringale Service

4pm on Sunday 14th December

Candlelit Carol Service

6pm on Sunday 21st December

Nativity Service

4pm on Christmas Eve

Midnight Communion

11:15pm on Christmas Eve

Family Communion

10:30am on Christmas Day

Emmanuel Church

Oxford Street, BS23 1TN

website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11148/

Carol Singing In Church Square

2:30pm on Monday 15th December

Town Centre Carol Service

12:30pm on Thursday 18th December

Candlelit Carol Service

7pm on Friday 19th December

Holy Communion

10:30am on Christmas Day

Congregational Christmas Cards



There is a 'message board' near the south door at

Christ Church if you would like to send a card to the whole church family. Please do take a look &/or add one of your own.

Emmanuel Coffee Morning

The next 'Coffee Morning and Sale' at Emmanuel is this Saturday, 6th December from 10:30am-12noon



Verse For The Week

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

Romans 15: 4

Contact Details

Rev. Tom Webber (Day Off - Tuesday)

t: (01934) 709343

e: revtom@ccwsm.org.uk

Church Office (09:30-12:30 Mon-Fri)

t: (01934) 641016

e: office@ccwsm.org.uk

w: www.ccwsm.org.uk