

The Benefice of Chew Valley East

Morning Prayer for Sunday 11 December 2022, Third Sunday of Advent

*If you wish to join in the service, then the words in **bold** are to be said together. Please join in with the Psalms and Canticles – either by reciting each one in its entirety, or in response to the worship leader by reciting the even numbered verses.*

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence
that we may behold your power and glory.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

In your tender compassion
the dawn from on high is breaking upon us
to dispel the lingering shadows of night.
As we look for your coming among us this day,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

Amen.

The Word of God

Psalm 146:4-10

¹Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, ♦
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

⁵Who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in them; ♦
who keeps his promise for ever;

⁶Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong ♦
and bread to those who hunger.

⁷The Lord looses those that are bound; ♦
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

⁸The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; ♦
the Lord loves the righteous;

⁹The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;
he upholds the orphan and widow; ♦
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

¹⁰The Lord shall reign for ever, ♦
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Alleluia.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning
is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.’

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Canticle

**Lift up your voice with strength,
O herald of good tidings.**

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, ♦
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

²They shall see the glory of the Lord, ♦
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weary hands, ♦
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to the anxious, ‘Be strong, fear not, your God is coming with judgement, ♦
coming with judgement to save you.’

⁵Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, ♦
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶Then shall the lame leap like a hart, ♦
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

⁷For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, ♦
and streams in the desert;

⁸The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, ♦
with everlasting joy upon their heads.

⁹Joy and gladness shall be theirs, ♦
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35.1, 2b-4a, 4c-6, 10

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Lift up your voice with strength,
O herald of good tidings.**

Second Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to Jesus, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ ⁴Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

Responsory

Now it is time to awake out of sleep,

for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,

for the night is far spent.

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,

for the day is at hand.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ

and make no provision for the flesh,

for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

from Romans 13

Gospel Cantic: Benedictus

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,

and see the glory that is coming from God.

¹Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.

²He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.

³Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

⁴To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

⁵This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

⁶Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

⁷And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

⁸To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

⁹In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

¹⁰To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the glory that is coming from God.**

Intercessions

To the words:

Rejoice, the Lord is near.

Please respond:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Liberating God, we rejoice in your freedom and our hearts sing for joy in your salvation. Open our lips to proclaim your Son...

Inspire your Church to delight in your presence.

Rejoice, the Lord is near.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Eternal Lord, you rule over the heavens and the earth.

Transform our politics that all may have cause to rejoice and celebrate the fulfilment of your promises...

Stir every nation to honour the dignity of all people.

Rejoice, the Lord is near.

Come, Lord Jesus.

God of justice, as we look to celebrate again the birth of your Son, increase within us your compassion and mercy for all who are hungry, excluded or on the margins of our society...

May your promises be shown in deed as well as word.

Rejoice, the Lord is near.

Come, Lord Jesus.

God of healing and hope, be with all whose hands and limbs are swollen with arthritis, or whose abilities are restricted.

We pray for all who are struggling in any way...

Refresh all who ache for relief from their sufferings.

Rejoice, the Lord is near.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Lord of life and love, in your Son you bring salvation.

Sustain children who mourn parents and all whose hearts grieve...

May the good news of your Son rising in glory fill our hearts with joy.

Rejoice, the Lord is near.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

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Conclusion

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.