



Benefice of Christ Church and St Mary's, Frome
Diocese of Bath and Wells

Sunday 14th December

Third Sunday of Advent

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it 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.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say 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.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then 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; the 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. A 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. No 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. And 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 – The Magnificat

1 My soul doth' magnify the' Lord : and my spirit hath re'joiced in' God my ' Saviour.

2 For he' hath re'garded : the ' lowliness ' of his ' handmaiden.

3 For be'hold from ' henceforth : all generations shall' call me ' blessed.

4 For he that is mighty hath ' magnified ' me : and ' holy.' is his ' Name.

5 And his mercy is on ' them that' fear him : throughout all' generations.

6 He hath shew-ed ' strength with his ' arm : he hath scattered the proud, in the imagi'nation' of their ' hearts.

7 He hath put down the mighty' from their' seat : and hath ex'alted the ' humble and ' meek.

8 He hath fill-ed the hungry with ' good' things : and the rich he ' hath sent' empty a'way.

9 He re'membering his ' mercy : hath ' holpen his ' servant' Israel.

10 As he promised' to our ' forefathers : Abraham ' and his ' seed for ' ever.

Glory be to the Father, and ' to the ' Son : and ' to the ' Holy ' Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ' ever ' shall be : world without ' end.' A'men.

Second Reading: James 5.7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the

doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As 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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly 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.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Prayers for the sick: David Fielden, Yvonne Stewart, Aisling, Jane, Wai Ping, Geraldine Butland, Beth, Hugh Nowlan, Judy Matthews

RIP Terry Rusbridge, Peter Howes

Years Mind for December: Stan Bullock, Gladys Elyes, Ted Giles, Barbara Meadows, Sophie Parr, Janet Pope, Eric Price, Audrey Taylor, Edna Pike, David Martin, Clifford Bennett, Millicent Ede, Anthony Stride, John Tiley, Les White

The week ahead

Tues 16th 7.00am Carol Singing at Frome Station
1.30pm Funeral for Terry Rusbridge at Christ Church
Wed 17th 10.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's
3.00pm Carol Service at Greenhill Grange
Fri 19th 2.00pm Carol Service at Frome Hospital
7.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols at Christ Church
Sat 20th 6.00pm Fair Frome Carol Concert at Christ Church
Revd Liz's rest day is Monday 15th

Christmas at the YMCA is hard for the young people aged 16-25 who live there. Donations of Christmas presents of sweets and biscuits, toiletries, gloves, scarves, craft items and writing pens and pads suitable for both genders are most welcome. Please leave them unwrapped so that they can be given in the most appropriate way. Please leave in the box at the back of church or bring to service next week or take directly to the YMCA by Monday 15th.

There are flyers in each church with details of our **Christmas Services**. Please take as many as you can a push through letterboxes in your street and neighbouring streets. Please write on the sheet at the back of church where you are delivering to avoid duplication.

Come and sing carols at **Frome Station** on Tuesday 16th with FACT and bring joy to those commuting to work and school

Services Next Week: 21st December

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Christ Church

10.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's

3.00pm Carol Service at St. Mary's

Contact Details: Revd Liz:

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Prayer Shed [https://pray.247prayer.com/signup/7525ce`](https://pray.247prayer.com/signup/7525ce)