

*The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott*



MEETING POINT

Second Sunday of Advent
5th December 2021

**VOICE IN THE
WILDERNESS**



Online Worship

Welcome to our Online Worship – Meeting Point

*As Sunday Services now take place in our churches,
our Online Worship continues in ‘Meeting Point’ –
we are joined together as one worshipping family through
our services at home and in church through the seasons
of the*

Church Year and the themes of the Gospel.

*Sunday Meeting Point helps us deepen our faith as we
explore readings from scripture and experiences from our
day to day lives.*

*This week’s Advent service is the first of two when we learn more
about John the Baptist and his ministry preparing the way for
Jesus, the Messiah.*

*Today we learn how he saw himself as a voice crying in the
desert wilderness. He was not important but the message he
brought was essential.*

*It is led by members of our Ministry Team and features a mystery
guest who will explain some of the secrets of newsreading on the
BBC.*



In many churches and homes we have an Advent candle ring during these four weeks. There is a candle for each Sunday with a special central candle to be lit on Christmas Day. You may wish to use your handicraft skills to make your own ring or perhaps to have a small single candle or tea-light to mark each week as you listen to and share in this service.

The Welcome

Fr. Paul introduces today's service

Hymn

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his People's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?



2 God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Chorus

3 Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,

Chorus

4 Journey ends! Where afar
Bethl'em shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!

Jesus comes!

Jesus comes!

We will make him welcome!

Acclamation - Michelle

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World:
eternal light, shine in our hearts.

Lord, open our eyes to your presence.
Come, Lord of light.

Lord, open our ears to your call.
Come, Lord of light.

Lord, open our hearts to your love.
Come, Lord of light.

Lord, open our lives to your guiding.
Come, Lord of light.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

You may like to light two candles at home, as today, we light the first candle on the Advent Wreath, the first, the candle of hope, for all of God's faithful people, the second, the candle of peace, for all the prophets, and the women and men of vision.

Jesus said: 'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life.'

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

People of God: be glad!
Your God delights in you,
giving you joy for sadness
and turning the dark to light.
Be strong in hope therefore;
for your God comes to save.
You are God's children.
**Lord, make us one in the love of Christ
today and for ever.**



The Collect for Advent 2 - Brenda

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God **Amen.**

Gospel – Luke 3:1-6 – *read by Brenda*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"



Hymn

**Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.**

**He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Music: from Ravenscroft's 'The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1621

Modern Messengers – *A radio newsreader explains secrets of the trade*

St John the Baptist describes himself and his mission as “A voice crying in the wilderness”. What he looked like, his strange eating habits or clothing wasn't important. He was a voice – nothing more, nothing less.

What does it mean to be just a voice?

REFLECTION by Michelle

Hymn

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.



2. **Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

3. **Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

4. **By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Words: Charles Wesley



Prayers of Intercession – led by Phil & Pat Cornelius

Good and gracious Lord,
open our eyes to your presence and our hearts to your love,
Come, Lord, come among us.

Lord, you come to us in power,
to send us out as prophets in your Name.
Strengthen us to proclaim the Good News without fear,
to show forth your glory in our land.

Lord, open our eyes to your presence,
and our hearts to your love.

Lord, you come to your Church,
and inspire us with visions of new hope.
Fill us with courage to announce your saving love
and bring freedom to your people.

Lord, open our eyes to your presence,
and our hearts to your love.

Lord, you come to your world
with a message of peace.
Speak into the hearts of those who lead
to bring justice among the nations.
We give you thanks for gentle St Nicholas,
patron saint of children and gift-givers.

Lord, open our eyes to your presence,
and our hearts to your love.

Lord, you come to those who need you
with comfort and tenderness.
Bless those who use their gifts to heal,
for those involved in medical research,
for the hope of the Covid vaccine.
Be with those who suffer, who are broken in body,
mind or heart.

Lord, open our eyes to your presence,
and our hearts to your love.

Lord, you come to bring us home
into your kingdom.
Bless our loved ones who are departed from us and grant that they may
enjoy a vision of your glory.

Lord, open our eyes to your presence,
and our hearts to your love.

Lord, come to us this day in your great power,
come to heal, restore, forgive and redeem us,
come to bring peace, grace and love.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

And so we pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words that Jesus himself taught us, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace - Paul

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you;
And also with you.



cf Luke 1.78,79

Choir of St. Mary's

**Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near;
wait for the Lord,
be strong, take heart.**

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

The Advent Collect – (The special prayer for this season) - Linda

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,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn

**Make way, make way
For Christ the King
In splendour arrives
Fling wide the gates and welcome Him
Into your lives**

***Make way! (Make way!)
Make way! (Make way!)
For the King of kings
(For the King of kings)
Make way! (Make way!)
Make way! (Make way!)
And let His kingdom in***

**He comes the broken hearts to heal
The prisoners to free
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance
The blind shall see**

**And those who mourn with heavy hearts
Who weep and sigh
With laughter, joy and royal crown
He'll beautify**

**We call you now to worship Him
As Lord of all
To have no gods before Him
Their thrones must fall!**

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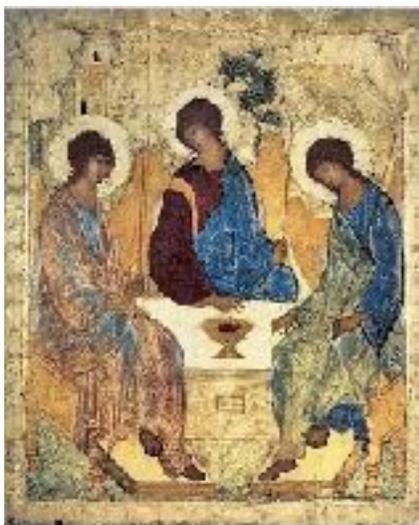


The Blessing - Michelle

The Lord grant you a vision of his presence,
An awareness of his love,
a sensitivity to his guiding,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and your loved ones this day and for always.
Amen



*Check out the weekly Newsheet via the website and keep up to date with all that's happening .
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