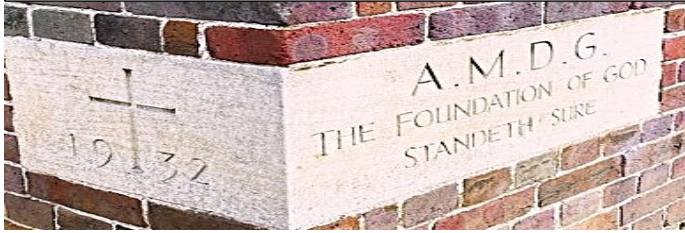


All Saints' North Hillingdon

8th Dec 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent



Are we ready for Jesus to visit us this Christmas? Malachi warns us he will refine us until we are righteous (similarly 'fuller's soap' has bleaching properties). The Canticle is more positive; speaking of freedom, salvation from enemies, mercy, compassion and forgiveness. Paul prays the Philippians might be pure and blameless and produce a harvest of righteousness for when Christ comes. Luke reminds us of John the Baptist's message to turn from wrong to right, and that 'all flesh shall see the salvation of God'. If you knew Christ was going to come today, how would you prepare your home, and most importantly, your heart?

HYMNS AT 10 O'CLOCK

Gathering 10 Long ago, prophets knew
Advent candle song verse 2 (see below)

Gradual 3 Come thou long expected

Offertory 420 O Jesus, I have promised

Comm'n 168 On this High feast day

Sending 408 Love Divine, all loves excelling

Advent candle song verse 2

Prophet voices loudly crying,
making pathways clear;
glimpsing glory, self-denying,
calling all to hear.

Through their message - challenged, shaken –
hearts awaken:

God is near!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 10am Eucharistic Service in Church	10:30 Cake, Coffee and Chat in Hall
Please invite people to our Christmas Services:	
Sun 15 th Dec 5pm - Carol Service + refreshments	
Sun 22 nd Dec 5pm – Christingle	
Tue 24 th Dec 11:15pm - Midnight Mass	
Wed 25 th Dec 10am - Christmas Day	

GIVING/ BOILER UPDATE

Our 40-year-old boiler is no longer serviceable. A new heating system will cost around £30,000. It would warm our hearts and bodies if you would consider increasing your weekly offering, or giving a one-off donation to:

"All Saints Church Hillingdon Parish Church"

Sort Code: 20-89-16 a/c number: 00107344

(please fill in a gift-aid form so we can re-claim tax)

DONATIONS WANTED; Boxes at rear of church

The **Food Bank** welcomes all donations e.g: Cereal, tins (soup, meat, veg, fruit), pasta, rice, tea, coffee, Biscuits and UHT milk.

THIS WEEK'S INTERCESSIONS: We lift up to the Lord those who have asked for our prayers;

Mark Callaghan, Michael Worrell, Simon Matthews, David Rance, the Hamlin family, Hazel & Helen Parris, John Clarke, Mabel and Tony Poon-Jones, James Wills, Linette & Barry Coombs, Lyn Prior, Lynn Taylor. **May they know his grace, strength, blessing, healing and salvation.**

+

We give thanks for the lives of those who have died around this time: *Laura Fairman, James Collins, Charles Williamson, Louise Haywood, Harry Dawson-Whisker, Henry Sack.*

Call for MAGAZINE EDITORS and CONTENT

We are still looking for a permanent editor for the church magazine, so if anyone feels inspired to edit or contribute articles, let us know.

VISITS / HOME COMMUNION

If you know of anyone who needs a visit, home communion or prayer, please let me know; Rev Ulric Gerry 01895 262024 ulricgerry@icloud.com

SOCIAL ACTION: email our MP e.g rural affairs or cost of energy? danny.beales.mp@parliament.uk

Parish Website:

www.allsaintsnorthhillingdon.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ASHillingdon



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.

FIRST READING

Either **Baruch 5**

A reading from the book of the prophet Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Or **Malachi 3:1-4**

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says

the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

CANTICLE Luke 1:68-79 (Benedictus) 

R *Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel.*

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

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

Through his holy prophets God promised of old

to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us, To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant. **R**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. **R**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins. **R**

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your

sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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.'"

POST COMMUNION

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.



Bles-sed be the Lord - the God of Is - ra - el.