

## **Sunday December 6th 2020**

*For use at 10.30 am or at another time.*



*We light, or place, our second Advent Candle.*

I/we place the second candle for the prophets – those who foretold the coming of the Messiah.

We pray that we too will listen for God's voice and be prepared to act. **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**



### **Hymn StF 178 H&P 83**

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?*

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:

Fred Pratt Green (1903 - 2000) CCL nos. 168415, 495683, 102550, 962013

### **For Prayer**

God of all glory, you brought the universe into existence,  
and raised up witnesses to your greatness and love. We praise and adore you.  
Grant that by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit we may worship and serve you,  
And praise your Holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Methodist Worship Book for Advent)

**Old Testament Reading set for today: Isaiah 40 v 1 – 11**

**Gospel Reading set for today: Mark 1 v 1 – 8**

### **To think about**

In what ways does John the Baptist deserve his place on the Sunday in Advent traditionally given to the prophets?

### **Message from a Circuit Friend**

"Are you having a Christmas tree in the church?" Until very recently we weren't even sure if we would be able to worship in church at all. Therefore, a question about the precise details of whether we would have a tree caught me by surprise. It was as though we needed to address bigger issues, to plan the things that 'really matter' first. But how do we know what the bigger issues are? A circuit plan has already been in place so we know who the preacher is. The social distancing etc has been in practice already in the churches who are likely to open.

At the beginning of Mark's gospel, with the account of John the Baptist, there is a mixture of the bigger issues and some small details that seem trivial. John is preaching about repentance and baptism which is the basis for the preparation of receiving Jesus as the Messiah. There are also small details about John's clothing. Apparently trivial but they refer back to Elijah and other prophets of the Old Testament, demonstrating that John is part of a long line of prophets, and part of God's long-term plan for all of us. As we personally make plans for Christmas there may well be big decisions affecting the wider family. These could include small details of the logistics of it all. There may well be practical considerations about our own preparations which could be time-consuming or dominating our thoughts. But the really important part of advent is our own personal, and spiritual, preparation. As we continue through advent I pray, for all of us, that the small details and the bigger details will all take their place so that we can prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus with open and receptive hearts.

**Jen Woodfin** (Circuit Minister and Deacon in the Central Norfolk Circuit)

## **Hymn StF 168**

Come, Lord Jesus, come / come, Lord Jesus, come / Come, Lord Jesus, come / to this world of ours.  
Lord, we need you now / Lord, we need you now / Lord, we need you now / in this world of ours.  
Fill us with your peace / fill us with your peace / fill us with your peace / in this world of ours.  
Touch us with your love / touch us with your love / touch us with your love / in this world of ours.  
May we see your light / may we see your light / may we see your light / in this world of ours.

Francesca Leftley (b1955) Copyright numbers as overleaf

## **For Prayer**

We pray for people who have big issues to face, and for those who are very worried about smaller details.

We pray for those who have had a bad (or very bad) week – for those who have lost their jobs, for those who have lost a loved one, for those who have lost faith or hope or a reason to live.

We pray for our world, our country, the Methodist Church, our Circuit, our local church and fellowship, our community, our family and friends, ourselves.

## **Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...**

## **Hymn StF 181 H&P 79**

Of the Father's love begotten / ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega / he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been / and that future years shall see / evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers in old time / chanted of with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets / promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long-expected / let creation praise its Lord / evermore and evermore.

O you heights of heaven, adore him / angel hosts, his praises sing;  
all dominions, bow before him / and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent / every voice in concert sing / evermore and evermore!

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348 - 413) transl by John Mason Neale (1818 – 1866) & Henry Williams Baker (1821 – 1877)

## **Advent Sending Out**

The day of the Lord is surely coming.

Be faithful in worship, unwavering in hope, fervent in the work of God's kingdom  
and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

## **CIRCUIT INFORMATION**

Most of our Churches are re-opening again with the end of the second lockdown, please check with your local steward or minister.

The 'virtual' Posada (travelling figures of Mary & Joseph) mentioned last week has been in Great Ellingham, Hingham, Watton, Saham Hills, Garvestone, Swaffham and Sporle. Today they are in Wendling. Please pray for all who live and work and worship in all these places. The photos can be viewed at [Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit | Photos](#). If you do not have access to the internet and would like a hard copy please contact Mandy our Administrator on 07736 467831 (text or voice message).

We have had four weeks of successful online services via zoom. Around 80 – 90 people have participated at one time or another and many have attended both morning and evening. The regular zoom services are stopping with the end of the lockdown but there will still be occasional opportunities to worship in this way. The dates and times will be advertised on this Worship Sheet.

There are also short morning prayer times taking place on a regular basis with 10 – 15 people taking part in these. For the details and zoom links, contact Mandy as above.