

ANGLICAN PARISH OF CLEVEDON

"A Christ - Centred Community of Extravagant Welcome and Radical Hospitality"

The Third Sunday of Advent *Sunday 17 December 2023*



All Souls Presider and Preacher: The Reverend Vivienne Pyle
Christ Church Presider and Preacher: The Reverend Sarah Park

*Please be aware that the service from All Souls
will be live-streamed to our Face Book page.*

WELCOME

GATHERING

Grace and peace to you from God.

God fill you with truth and joy.

This is the day which the Lord has made.

We shall rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING HYMN

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and fill our lives, all dark and fear dispel,
as once an exiled Israel you found,
redeemed, restored and set on holy ground.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
and in our hearts will dwell.
2. O come, O light of Christ, so bright and clear
and lift our spirits by your advent here.
In all who gather, show us your face,
that we may know the warmth of your embrace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
and in our hearts will dwell.
3. O come, O Wisdom, mind and heart divine
help us restore a world we've let decline.
Enlighten us; your way we would know
and show us where new seeds of hope to sow.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
and in our hearts will dwell.

4. O Advent God of hope, joy, love and peace,
in you we pray our sad divisions cease.
Bind us as one, a people of grace,
for at your table each one has a place.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
and in our hearts will dwell.

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THE ADVENT WREATH

Lighting the Third Candle - Joy

When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light

who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Light three candles of the Advent wreath.

REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

Jesus, our deliverer, we take your freedom from others.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Jesus, our hope, we deprive others of hope.

Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Jesus, God's shalom, we distort your peace.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

In silence before God, we confess our sins.

Silence

God the Creator brings you new life, forgives and redeems you.

Take hold of this forgiveness and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus.

Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

you sent your servant John the Baptist

to prepare the way for the coming of your Son;

grant that those who proclaim your word

may so guide our feet into the way of peace,

that we may stand with confidence before him

when he comes in his glorious kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 61 : 1 – 4, 8 - 11

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

In place of Psalm: Luke 1 : 46 - 55

⁴⁶ And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ **and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,**

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ **for the Mighty One has done great things for me,**

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ **He has shown strength with his arm;**

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ **he has filled the hungry with good things,**

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ **according to the promise he made to our ancestors,**

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5 : 16 - 24

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who waits
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears,

For the dawn draws near,

And the world is about to turn.

2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and for those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. **(Refrain)**

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. **(Refrain)**

4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forbears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. **(Refrain x 2)**

Tune Star of the County Down

Gospel Reading: John 1 : 6 – 8, 19 - 28

Before the Gospel: The Holy Gospel according to John
Praise and Glory to God.

After the Gospel: This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ, the Word.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God,
creator and lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ—
God coming to us
in the fragile promise
of a baby yet unborn—
who emerges as the herald of hope,
God's joy in the face of despair.
He broke free the captives,
and is leading the way
to the land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who implants the seed of truth,
brings us to birth
as the body of Christ,
and empowers us
to confront and transform
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.**

**We believe in the coming reign of God.
Announced by the Baptist,**

it has drawn near to us in Jesus,
and will be consummated
when all who have passed through
the world's deep sorrow
will be raised from the waters,
robed in righteousness,
and gathered into the joyous fulfilment
of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day,
we work and pray:
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Prayers of Intercession

Bidding: ...and in your mercy

Response: **Hear our prayer**

THE PEACE

The peace of God be with you all.
In God's justice is our peace.

E te whanau / Brothers and sisters
Christ calls us to live in unity.
We seek to live in the Spirit of Christ

OFFERTORY HYMN

1. When our God shall come to reign, mighty power revealing,
splendour shall be seen again, life and joy and healing:
earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated;
this is God's redemption day longingly awaited.
2. In the desert trees take root like a new creation,
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit join the celebration:
rivers spring up from the earth, barren lands adorning;
valleys this is your re-birth, mountains, greet the morning.

3. Strengthen feeble hands and knees, fainting hearts be cheerful!
God who comes for such as these seeks and saves the fearful:
now the deaf can hear the dumb sing away their weeping;
blind eyes see the injured come walking, running, leaping.

4. There God's highway shall be seen where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean walks the road to Zion:
ransomed people homeward bound all your praises voicing,
see your God with glory crowned, share in our rejoicing!

Tune "Good King Wenceslas" words Christopher Idle, adapted

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

God of all creation, you bring forth
bread from the earth
and fruit from the vine.

By your Holy Spirit this bread and wine will be for us
the body and blood of Christ.

All you have made is good.

Your love endures for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

How can we thank you, O God?

For sun and moon and stars,
for breath and life and all things good,
for your steadfast promise and your faithful love,
for the day that is surely coming
when all things will be made new.

With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation,
we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus,
who came to be your living Word,
to baptize us with Spirit and fire,
to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty,
and to announce the good news of your coming realm.

With thanksgiving, we remember how, when the hour had come,
Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles.

He said to them, I will not eat this Passover again
until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Then Jesus took bread,
and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and gave it to them, saying,
This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper, he took a cup, saying,
This cup that is poured out for you
is the new covenant in my blood.
I will not drink of the fruit of the vine
until the kingdom of God comes.

With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you,
sharing this holy meal,
remembering Christ's dying and rising,
and praying: Come Lord Jesus!

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us—
this bread, this cup, these people—
Christ's body and blood,
given in love for the world.

Make us one in the Spirit,
one in the church,
and one with Christ our Lord.

Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people,
serving our neighbours, worshiping you alone.
Keep us in the peace of Christ
until you gather us at your table in glory.

Even now, a voice is crying in the wilderness:
prepare the way of the Lord!

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

As Christ teaches us we pray:

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

Give us this day our daily bread.

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

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

Come God's people.

Come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Give us courage, God our strength, to see your Christ in all who suffer,
to be hands to the helpless, food for the hungry,
and liberation for the oppressed. **Amen.**

NOTICES AND BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name - the Lord, the Mighty One.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

DISMISSAL

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen! We go in the name of Christ.

This evening we are invited to join the Clevedon Presbyterian
Church Carol Service at 7.30pm.

CHRISTMAS CAKE RAFFLE

Don't forget to buy your Raffle Tickets for Mary's delicious
Christmas cake. \$3 each or \$5 for 3 tickets.
Cash or internet church donation (reference Christmas cake)

READINGS NEXT WEEK ADVENT 4

Isaiah 61 : 1 – 4, 8 – 11

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5 : 16 – 24

John 1 : 6 – 8, 19 - 28

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 24 December	9.30am	Advent 4	Christ Church
Sunday 24 December	10.00pm	Christmas Eve	Clevedon
Monday 25 December	9.30am	Christmas Day	Clevedon and Alfriston
Sunday 31 December	9.30am	Christmas I	Christ Church

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH 18 - 25 DECEMBER

Mahjong Group	1.00pm	Tuesday	Christ Church
Men's Group	9.30am	Wednesday	Windross Farm
Staff Lunch	1.00pm	Wednesday	Office closed
Wedding	3.00pm	Thursday	All Souls
Advent 4			
Eucharist (combined)	9.30am	Sunday	Christ Church
Christmas Eve			
Eucharist (combined)	10.00pm	Sunday	All Souls
Christmas Day			
Eucharist	9.30am	Monday	All Souls and Christ Church

Parish Contacts

Office: (09) 292 8763	Email	clevedon.anglicans@xtra.co.nz
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Priest Assistant: The Reverend Vivienne Pyle	Mobile	(021) 251 3825
Vicar's Warden: Phillipa MacCormick	Mobile	(021) 950 530
People's Warden: Joanne Schroeder	Mobile	(027) 255 2275

Parish Website: www.clevedonanglicans.org.nz
<https://www.facebook.com/welcomeandhospitality>

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed from
Thursday 21 December at 12.00 noon until Monday 8 January.

Sarah is on leave 26 December – 08 January
During her leave the wardens will be on call,
Vivienne for any pastoral ministry.

Vivienne is on leave 8 – 13 January.

2024 ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

B.B.Q TOURNAMENT

Saturday 27TH JANUARY,

CLEVEDON FIRESIDE BRIDGE CLUB

All Souls Church Hall, 49 North Rd., CLEVEDON.

Entry \$40.00

(includes Barbeque meal with Wine, Beer, Juice etc.)

Welcome from 2 pm for refreshments Play begins at 2.30pm
TO ENTER – Please phone, text **Pauline Melles 027 6105457**
or **Email pcmelles@gmail.com**