

Welcome to St John-in-Bedwardine

6th December 2020

10.30am Eucharist Service



Welcome to St John's and our service today. Communal worship is at the heart of Christian life and whether you are here as a regular or a visitor, you are joining a community which stretches back some eight centuries in this place. Whoever you are, wherever you come from and for whatever reason you are here, you are welcome in this place.

We meet during a pandemic and our worshipping life is very different to that with which we are familiar. Face coverings, social distancing and an absence of singing do make things difficult and deprive us of the social elements which are so essential to full human life. Many of us are grieving their absence, not only in church life, but everywhere, and it is thus more important than ever in these most difficult times that we continue to hold our terrified, broken world before God and maintain the faith which saw our ancestors through so many troubled times.

If you have any questions, please do ask the wardens or the minister.

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 6th December (10.30am)

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.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

New Testament Reading: Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare

the way of the Lord, 'make his paths straight' ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

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.

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Organ Music:

Before the service: J. S. Bach, Prelude & Fugue in E minor

Gradual: Johann Pachelbel, Fugue in D minor

Post Gospel: Jonathan Battishill, Air

Offertory: Jules Massenet, Meditation from Thaïs

During Distribution: J. S. Bach, Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland

Post Communion: S. S. Wesley, Lead me, Lord

Organ Voluntary: J. S. Bach, Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

The restrictions in place mean that we will be unable to have our usual range of Christmas services this year. In particular, as we are unable to sing, we will not be able to have our normal carol service. After a successful trial of streaming during the latest lockdown, we intend to stream the carol service and provide other Christmas services in person. Although it is far from ideal, we are working to make the best of what we can do.

We are currently considering three options. If you have a preference for any of these, especially about what happens on Christmas Eve, please let one of the clergy know as soon as possible, as it is much better if we can base our decision on what people would prefer.

Option 1

1. Sunday 20 December, 6pm - streamed Carol Service
2. Christmas Eve, 9pm - First Eucharist of Christmas
3. Christmas Day, 10am - Eucharist

Option 2

1. Christmas Eve, 6pm - streamed Carol Service
2. Christmas Day, 10am - Eucharist

Option 3

1. Sunday 20 December, 6pm - streamed Carol Service
2. Christmas Day, 10am - Eucharist

St John-in-Bedwardine

The Parish Office

1a Bromyard Road, Worcester WR2 5BS

Current office opening hours are:

Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 11am.

(Outside of these hours please send an email or leave a message on the answerphone and someone will get back to you as soon as possible)

Tel: 01905 420490

Email: office@wcw.church

www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Clergy:

Revd Phil Bradford – Day off is Friday

Revd Sarah Cottrill – Day off is Saturday