



S^t Thomas' Cathedral *Mumbai • Estd 1718*

The Church of North India

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday

A Service of Morning Prayer

Sunday December 13, 2020



Today is the third Sunday in Advent. In the season of Advent (from the Latin, 'Adventus' for 'coming') we look back and look forward. We look back, remembering the story that leads to the birth of Jesus. We look forward to his coming again.

A candle is lit on each of the Sundays in Advent. This morning we light the candle of joy. Today's candle is pink in colour – representing "Gaudete" or "Rejoice!" Sunday. The pink candle, reminds us of the hope and joy to come in the Nativity of the Lord.

"Shout for joy, daughter of Sion" says Zephaniah. "Draw water joyfully from the font of salvation," says Isaiah. "Rejoice in the Lord always," says St. Paul. "Do penance for the judge is coming," says John the Baptist. We remember John the Baptist, who proclaimed the Messiah.

|The Preparation & Gathering|

Voluntary

Prelude on the tune St Stephen
(*'The Lord will come and not be slow'*)

David Blackwell (b. 1961)

All stand

The Opening Acclamation

Presbyter	Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Blessèd be God: † Father, Son and Holy Spirit.	Philippians 4: 4
People	And blessèd be His Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.	

Please be seated

Song

"Rejoice in the Lord always"

Follow the words as the Cantor sings.

Rejoice in the Lord always,
and again I say rejoice!

Words: Philippians 4
Music: Traditional, arranged Evelyn Turner

As per Government and Diocesan guidelines, you are requested to strictly adhere to the following:

- Please cooperate with the Security as they carry out the mandatory checks before you enter.
- Make use of sanitizers kept at the entrance.
- Wearing of face covering is mandatory at all times.
- Maintain the distance as indicated by the positioning of the chairs.
- Use of books is not yet permitted. Carry your own Bible and access service bulletins on your phone.
- Leave as soon as the service is over. Please do not gather outside and talk.

Presently administration of Holy Communion is not allowed. Until further instructions from the Bishop, the service will be that of Ministry of the Word. Familiarise yourself with the Diocesan advisory.

The Advent Wreath

Reader Today we light the third candle of the Advent wreath.
Blessèd are you sovereign Lord, just and true:
To you be praise and glory for ever.
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

Response **Blessèd be God for ever.**

(The candle is lit.)

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Penitence and Confession

All say

**O God most holy and merciful,
we confess that we have sinned
against you and one another,
in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have not done.
Therefore we pray you to have mercy on us,
and forgive us our sins. Amen.**

The almighty and merciful God grant us pardon and remission of all our sins, grace to amend our life, and the strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The cantor sings

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christe eleison.

Christ have mercy on us.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy on us.

All say the Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come;
Thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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 Ministry of the Word|

The Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent

O LORD Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight,

who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. **Amen.**

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 35:1 - 10

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of jackals, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146: 4 - 10

All Refrain: **The Lord shall reign for ever.**

- 4 Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, ♦ whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; ♦ who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong ♦ and bread to those who hunger. [R]
- 7 The Lord looses those that are bound; ♦ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
- 8 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; ♦ the Lord loves the righteous;
- 9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow; ♦ but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.
- 10 The Lord shall reign for ever, ♦ your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Alleluia. [R]

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 4: 1 - 5

LET a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgement: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing against myself, yet am I not hereby justified; but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and then shall every man have his praise of God.

The Gradual

“The Lord will come and not be slow”

Follow the words of the hymn as the Cantor sings.

1. The Lord will come and not be slow,
his footsteps cannot err;
before him righteousness shall go,
his royal harbinger.
2. Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
shall bud and blossom then;
and justice, from her heavenly bower,
look down on mortal men.
3. Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
this wicked earth redress;
for thou art he who shalt by right
the nations all possess.
4. For great thou art, and wonders great
by thy strong hand are done:
thou in thy everlasting seat,
remainest God alone.

Words: from Psalms 82, 85, 86
John Milton (1608 - 74)
Music: W. Jones (1726 - 1800)

All stand

The Holy Gospel St Matthew 11. 2 - 10

When the Gospel is announced *all say* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

NOW when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, and said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. And blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in me. And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? a reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? a man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what went ye out for to see? a prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written,

Behold, I send my messenger before thy face,
which shall prepare thy way before thee.

All say **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Remain standing and recite together.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth:
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Please kneel as able or sit.

| The Prayers of the People |

Advent Prose *Sung by the Cantor*

Pour down, O heavens, from above and let the skies rain down righteousness.

Comfort my people, comfort them; my salvation shall not be delayed. I have swept your offences away like a cloud; fear not, for I will save you. I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your redeemer.

Edited by Stephen Cleobury (1948 - 2019)

Prayers of Intercession

- Intercessor* In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that in you we never need to be afraid, that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray: O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the Church, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths **All Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor* Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and for every nation on earth as all of humanity awaits an end to the pandemic. **All Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor* In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind especially the many around the world who are unwell, that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs. **All Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor* In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthday, remembering: Alice Dawson, Florence Harbour, Bhanumathi Patil, Ramola Joshi, Pritam Knox and Alka Tiwari. Pray for Arnold and Reena Pasgon as they celebrate their wedding anniversary; that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away. **All Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**
- In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer. **All Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

The Advent Blessing *The Presbyter*

May Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory: And the blessing of God Almighty, † the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

“On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”

Hymn at the Closing

Follow the words as the Cantor sings.

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Words: C. Coffin (1676 - 1749)

Music: adapted from 'Musicalisches Hand-Buch', 1690

Presbyter As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People In the name of Christ. Amen.

Variations on "People look East"

Besançon carol, arranged Richard Warner

~~~ Prayer requests and Announcements ~~~

Your prayers are requested for:

- † the vaccination trials which have begun to overcome the pandemic. Pray for the well-being of the recipients and those who have the responsibility of managing this task. We give thanks for the work of the many scientists and doctors whose tireless efforts have led to the vaccines being ready.
- † healing for the many who are ill with COVID -19.
- † all churches as they plan for services during Christmastide.
- † all senior citizens and those who are unwell. Pray for their well-being. Pray for all care providers.
- † St Paul's Church (the Tamil congregation which worships in Christ Church, Byculla) and the Revd. P. Abraham.
- † the Church of North India's Diocese of North East India and the Rt Revd Michael Herenz.
- † the Church of South India's Diocese of Trichy-Tanjore and the Rt Revd Dr. Dhanraj Chandrasekaran
- † in the Anglican Communion, the Church in the Falkland Islands (*Extra-Provincial to Canterbury*) and the Rt Revd Timothy Thornton.
- Your generous contribution towards the "Share the Joy of Christmas" Diocesan initiative will be most welcome. Contributions will go towards providing essential supplies to clergy and missionaries in the various CNI dioceses in the State of Maharashtra: Nagpur, Kolhapur, Nashik, Marathwada and Pune. Call the Diocesan Office to find out how you can help: (022) 2207 3904 (11AM to 6PM)
- Please note the new weekday timings (provisional) when the Cathedral is open – 7AM to 3PM.
- We appreciate the effort of the team which is assisting us live stream our worship service.

~~~ Birthdays this Week ~~~

May God bless you abundantly.

Alice Dawson (16), Florence Harbour (17), Bhanumathi Patil (18), Ramola Joshi (19),
Pritam Knox (19), Alka Tiwai (19)

~~~ Wedding Anniversaries this Week ~~~

Be blessed with love, joy and companionship all the years of your life.

Arnold & Reena Pasgon (15)

Hope at Christmas

It is but inevitable, that world over services at Christmastide are being "re-imagined" to take into account the current situation of the pandemic. We thank God that we as a Cathedral faith community have taken the step to "open our doors" for worship.

- **A Service of Lessons & Carols**— Premiered online on YouTube on Thurs, Dec 24 @ 6pm.
- The Cathedral will be open for private prayer all day from 7am to 8pm on **Christmas Eve**, Dec 24. There will, however, be no Midnight Eucharist this year. The Presbyter will be present.
- **Christmas Day** - There will be a service in the Cathedral @ 9am on Friday, Dec 25. This will be live streamed. As of now the distribution of Communion has still not been permitted.

Bank details to make your online offering and payment for your membership

SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS CATHEDRAL

Account No.: 917010054452406

Bank name: AXIS BANK LTD.

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

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Pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound will resume once the present situation improves.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY. PLEASE SHARE THIS SERVICE BULLETIN WITH A FRIEND.

Website <http://stthomascathedralmumbai.com>