

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A warm welcome to everyone whether you are regular or visiting.

COLLECT:

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

2 SAMUEL 7.1-11,16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' ³Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the Word of the Lord *All Thanks be to God*

ROMANS 16.25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord *All Thanks be to God*

GOSPEL:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
All Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. *All Praise to you, O Christ*

PRAYERS:

We pray for our communities and in particular this week all the people who live on: Bye Pass Road, Cavendish Court and Cherry Tree Close

We pray for those who are sick or in need at this time: Margaret Whitely, Terry Davey, Jean Wilson, Pauline and Jeff Timms, Margaret Pinkney, Gordon Macleod, Alison, Sue, Mark, Jeff and Stephen

We hold before God those who have recently died and pray for their families and friends: Paul Anthony, Margaret Watson, Bertie Chamberlain, Cicely Shepherd

From our book of remembrance, we remember in prayer: Jim Smith, Charles Allen Walker, Jack Hinton, Cyril Perks, John Edwin Fryers, Daisy Fryers, John Richard Storey

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Fourth Sunday of Advent - Mary

Jesus said, 'Anyone who does what my
Father in heaven wants
is my brother or sister or mother.'

**All I am the servant of the Lord.
Let it be to me according to his word.**

The fourth candle is lit and this response is used:

Jesus is the light of the world.

All A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing: [TUNE: Angel voices ever singing.]

**All Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,
changed for gladness
on that Day.**

**Mary's gift, beyond all telling,
was to give Christ room.
She gave God a
human dwelling
in a mother's womb.
Who could guess the final story?
-cross and glory;
empty tomb!**

Advent is a time of preparation, a time of expectation and a time of hope. A time to look for the promise and joy Christ brings anew. Hope which is for us, for those we love, for the world beyond us and the eternal hope for all creation. The Four Last Things— Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. Traditionally, the four Sundays of Advent have particular celebrations:

Advent 1

The Advent Hope (The Patriarchs e.g. Abraham, David)

Advent 2

The Prophets (e.g. Isaiah and Jeremiah)

Advent 3

John the Baptist (The voice crying in the wilderness)

Advent 4

Mary (Mother of Jesus Christ)

The Advent wreath is lit. Purple candles on Sundays 1, 2 and 4; pink on Sunday 3 (Gaudette or 'Rose' Sunday). Finally, the white candle is lit on Christmas Day. The last days of Advent are marked with the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons.

The fundamental prayer of Advent remains:
'Maranatha' - 'Our Lord, Come'

CAROL SERVICE: Monday 21st at 7.30pm Outside Church around the porch—with SINGING! Bring lanterns and mulled wine!

CHRISTMAS EVE AT 3.30PM CRIB SERVICE in the Glebe Field just along from church —bring wellies and a torch and wear your Christmas Jumpers, hats and gloves!

CHRISTMAS EVE Worship on Zoom at 7.30pm. Join early for a chat.

CHRISTMAS DAY Holy Communion in Church (and via Zoom) at 10.30am

Sunday 27th—Service of Holy Communion at St Luke's, Slyne at 10am

CALL TO PRAY AND GIVE: THANKYOU

Thanks be to God! Thank you to all of you for your generosity and gifts given for our Gift Day. We were £17,890 short this year and we have received £13,996 including Gift Aid towards this shortfall, of which only £3,894 now remains. All our giving flows from the abundance of the Kingdom of Heaven.

- 1) To give online direct to our bank account: Bolton-le-Sands PCC, Natwest Morecambe, sort code: 01 01 60 a/c number: 94801703.
- 2) To give online go to www.give.net/holytrinityboltonlesands, or
- 3) Monthly through your bank. To set it up, email Andy Hampshire, our Treasurer, on holytrinityblstreasurer@yahoo.com
- 4) Small gifts can be texted to church: text any amount up to £20 to 70085 e. g. To donate £10 text HTBLS 10 to 70085, or

Hopefully, all gifts that can be gift-aided will be.

A CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM—ADVENT BOOK 2020

At the back of church are the daily reflection books on Isaiah for Advent 2020 from our Blackburn Diocese - please give a book to someone who can't get to church.

COMFORT AND JOY

Sign up for the National Church of England resources for Christmas Devotions <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/comfort-and-joy-our-advent-and-christmas-reflections>

Holy Trinity is open for private prayer in the day.

There is a service in church on Sundays at 10.30am and you can join in from home via Zoom.

We worship via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10am.

CONTACT: Email parishblsnews@gmail.com for our newsletter and the invite to worship via zoom. Our website is www.bolton-le-sands.org.uk
Rev Nancy Goodrich: 01524 823106.

DAILY HOPE: A free phone line from the Church of England of hymns, reflections and prayers 0800 804 8044