



The Link

Sunday, 24th December, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

Holy Trinity, 10.30am: Sunday Communion Service

Holy Trinity, 4pm: Crib Service

Holy Trinity, 11.15pm: Midnight Communion Service

Holy Trinity, Monday, 25th December, 10.30am: Christmas Day Communion Service

HYMNS

BETHLEHEM CAROL SHEET:

18 Angels from the Realms of Glory

11 Joy to the World

3 Of the Father's love begotten

1 O Little Town of Bethlehem

COLLECT:

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

PSALM READING:

Today's reading is from **Psalm 89**.

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

God's Covenant with David

A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever;

with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one,

I have sworn to my servant David:

"I will establish your descendants for ever,
and build your throne for all generations." '

Selah

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:

'I have set the crown on one who is mighty,

I have exalted one chosen from the people.

I have found my servant David;

with my holy oil I have anointed him;

my hand shall always remain with him;

my arm also shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not outwit him,

the wicked shall not humble him.

I will crush his foes before him

and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;

and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

I will set his hand on the sea

and his right hand on the rivers.
He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"

This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke.**

All: Glory to you, O lord.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The 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. And 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then 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 for all living on: Chestnut Avenue, Church Brow and Church Brow Close.

We pray for those who are sick or in need: Rodney, Ollie, Paul, Roz, Wendy and Peter Hilling.

We pray for the family and friends of those who have recently died: Katherine Handley, Anne Deacon, and Theresa Wignall and Geoffrey Taylor.

From our Book of Remembrance, we remember in prayer: Jack Hinton, Cyril Perks, John Edwin Fryers, Daisy Fryers, John Richard Storey, Edward Askew

Cornthwaite, Alexander Souter Astor, Alexander 'Sandy' Burgess, Jean Mary Marshall, Aeneas Ramsay Mackintosh, Eleanor Mackintosh, Donald Geoffrey Smith and Edward Cowperthwaite.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Eternal God, for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life: keep us ever watchful, that we might be ready to stand before the Son of man, Jesus Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

Notices and Announcements

Flowers in Church 🌸: The flowers at the altar are in Remembrance of Roland and Mum and Dad at this special time of year.

The flowers at the Book of Remembrance are in dedication to all our loved ones no longer with us.

The **First Tuesday Hub** will **not be meeting in January**. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th February.

✝ Our Upcoming Services and Events ✝

Monday, 25th December: **Christmas Day**

Monday, 25th December, 10.30am: Christmas Day Communion Service

Tuesday, 26th December: **Boxing Day**

Wednesday, 27th December: **NO Wednesday Communion Service this week**

Sunday, 31st December: **New Year's Eve**

Sunday, 31st December, 9am: Holy Communion Service (Common Worship), St Mark's

Sunday, 31st December, 10.30am: Holy Communion Service, Holy Trinity and on Zoom.

Monday, 1st January, 2024: **New Year's Day**

Tuesday, 2nd January 2024, 7.45pm: Prayer Meeting, Vicarage Meeting Room.

Wednesday, 3rd January 2024, 10am: Wednesday Communion Service with MU worship, Holy Trinity.

Friday, 5th January 2024: **Twelfth Night First Friday. "New Year-New Life"**