**Sunday 6th December 2015**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

S GILES-IN-READING

*sgilesreading.org.uk*

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*Churchwardens:* Sylvia Gooding & Peter Bloomfield

Hymns: ***The English Hymnal***

Mass Setting: *Plainsong*

Motet: *The angel Gabriel - arr. Petman*

Entrance Hymn: *11* Offertory Hymn: *9*

Communion Hymns: *598 & 597* Recessional Hymn: *585*

Voluntary: *Toccata in A minor - Krebs.*

**OUR INTENTIONS TODAY.**Those in need: Tony Allen, Sarah Alderson, Jean Chapman, Pat Davis, Peter Davis, Peter George, Herbert Hinton, Phyllis Hinton, Maurice Houghton, Grace John, Kate Morl, Diana Sanni, Elizabeth Sayer, Sheena Sixsmith, Margaret Summers, Sophie Thomas, Fr Christopher Walker, Ann Westgarth and Nesta Williams.

The departed: Caroline Butler, Gladys Brant, Albert Butwell, Peggy Butwell, Thomas Christopher, Walter Fishlock, Ruby Howman, Alexandra Marr, Elizabeth Provins and Ruth Weaver.





*The word of God came to John the son of*

*Zechariah in the wilderness. Luke 3.2*

In dramatic fashion Luke tells us when

John the Baptist appeared on the world

scene. Luke lists a few of the key reigning rulers in John's era, including Tiberius Caesar of Rome (Luke 3:1). These rulers pale in reference to the man who now stood at the door of a new era of grace and salvation for the world. John's mission was to prepare the way for God's Anointed King who would come to establish God's rule above all other kings and authorities. Luke emphasizes the universal call of the Gospel to all peoples without distinction. He quotes from the prophet Isaiah that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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**Psalter Week 2**

**Sunday Readings: Year C. Weekday Readings: Year 2.**

**TODAY AT**

**S GILES**

Monday

07 December

Tuesday

08 December

Wednesday

09 December

Thursday

10 December

Friday

11 December

Saturday

12 December

**Sunday**

**13 December**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**10.00 Mattins**

**10.30 Parish Mass &**

 **Sunday School**

**17.30 Evensong**

**18.00 Low Mass**

S Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor

12.00 Low Mass

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

09.00 Mattins

17.30 Evensong

18.00 Low Mass with Hymns

Wednesday of the second week of Advent

10.00 Mattins

10.30 Low Mass

16.30 Evensong

Thursday of the second week of Advent

09.00 Mattins

Friday of the second week of Advent

11.00 Mattins

11.30 Bible Study

12.30 Low Mass

16.30 Evensong

Saturday of the second week of Advent

09.30 Mattins

10.00 Low Mass

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**10.00 Mattins**

**10.30 Parish Mass &**

 **Sunday School**

**17.30 Evensong**

**18.00 Low Mass**

**NOTICES & EVENTS**

*We welcome any visitors here this morning and hope that you will stay for refreshments after the service.*

**Bed for a Night volunteers needed!**Once again this year we will be helping with sheltering the homeless in Reading during the coldest period of winter.   If you are able to help one night a week with food and other assistance, please talk to the clergy.

This Tuesday is the **feast of our Lady's conception**.  We will celebrate with a Mass with Hymns at 18.00.   Evensong will be at 17.30.

Our annual **Christmas luncheon** will be on **Sunday 20 December**, following the Sunday mass.  Once again we will be going to Great Expectations (appropriate given the season!), the menus will be available this Sunday.  Two courses £20, three courses £24.

**Christmas Lessons and Carols** will be held on Sunday 20 December at 16.00.  Mulled wine and mince pies to follow.  All Welcome!

**Be attentive to the weekly schedule.**  I am away for a week to Canada, and Fr Sam has a busy schedule and isn't able to do our regular services of worship on Thursday and Saturday evenings.

**Saturday 12 December:** Church Cleaning 10.30 after Mass.

*If you have any notices that require adding to the sheet, please contact Anne or Geoff Canterbury at canterbury@ntlworld.com or 0118 961 0525 by Wednesday of the previous week.*

**Sunday 6th December 2015**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

***O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.***

**COLLECT**

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

***Amen.***

**THE FIRST READING** (Baruch 5: 1-9)

*A reading from the prophet Baruch.*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, "Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness". Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

*The Word of the Lord*

**THE GRADUAL PSALM** (Psalm 125)

**Response:** ***What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.***

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: "What marvels the Lord worked for them!"

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, 0 Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:

they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

**THE SECOND LESSON** (Philippians 1: 4-6; 8-11)

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

*The word of the Lord.*

**THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.***

***Alleluia!***

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** (Luke 3: 1-6)

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

***Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.***

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**
Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***