

THE PARISH OF THAMES

Welcomes you to

ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday, 15th December, 2019

3rd Sunday Of Advent

"Today we light the first, second and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is **HOPE**, the second candle is **PEACE** and the third candle is **JOY**."

The candle is lit.

Isaiah 55:12 - You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

Prayer: "Gracious God, You came to us in human flesh and You abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with Your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, Who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**"

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell Thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave:

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight:

O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery:

O come, O come, Thou Lord of Might, Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe:

Opening Prayer

Into this season of expectation,
into the bustle of our lives and the hard to find moments of solitude,
into our homes and situations along with friends and families,
into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives,
we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, **Messiah.**

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon *Please sit or knee*

We come seeking forgiveness for all we have failed to be and do
as members of Christ's body.

Silence

In God there is forgiveness.

Loving and all seeing God,

forgive us where we have failed to serve You;

and where our thoughts and actions have been contrary to Yours

we ask Your pardon.

God forgives us; be at peace.

Silence

We shall all be one in Christ, one in our life together.

Praise to God Who has created us,

praise to God Who has accepted us,

praise to God Who sends us into the world.

Sentence of the Day

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.'

Isaiah 35:3-4

Collect of the Day

Terror and doom, and wrath to come,

John your herald preached

to bring us to repentance;

open our eyes, almighty God,

show us our sin, and grant us forgiveness.

Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!
For the LORD will remove His hand of judgment and will disperse the armies of your enemy. And the LORD Himself, the King of Israel, will live among you!
At last your troubles will be over, and you will never again fear disaster.
On that day the announcement to Jerusalem will be, "Cheer up, Zion! Don't be afraid! For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty Saviour. He will take delight in you with gladness. With His love, He will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."

"I will gather you who mourn for the appointed festivals; you will be disgraced no more. And I will deal severely with all who have oppressed you. I will save the weak and helpless ones; I will bring together those who were chased away. I will give glory and fame to My former exiles, wherever they have been mocked and shamed. On that day I will gather you together and bring you home again. I will give you a good name, a name of distinction, among all the nations of the earth, as I restore your fortunes before their very eyes. I, the LORD, have spoken!"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Psalm: For the Psalm – Luke 1:47-55 – the words of Mary

"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!

For He took notice of His lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed

for the Mighty One is holy, and He has done great things for me.

He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear Him.

His mighty arm has done tremendous things!

He has scattered the proud and haughty ones. He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands.

He has helped His servant Israel and remembered to be merciful.

For He made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever.”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10 and Philippians 4:4-7

Read by Diana Maher

James 5:7-10:

Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord’s return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. Don’t grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look - the Judge is standing at the door!

For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance.

You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

Philippians 4:4-7:

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again - rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.

Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all He has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

The Gradual Hymn: Star Child

Star-Child, earth-Child go between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightening rod.

*This year, this year, let the day arrive, when Christmas comes for
everyone, everyone alive!*

Street child, beat child no place left to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know.

Grown child, old child, mem'ry full of years,
sad child, lost child, story told in tears.

Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child knowing joy in store.

Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, star of stars that shine.

C Music Colin Gibson & Carlton R Young C Words Shirley Murray

Grn Fldr

3rd Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

Read by Alan Hartley

Praise and Glory to God

When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, He went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region. John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?" Jesus told them, "Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen - the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor." And He added, "God blesses those who do not fall away because of Me."

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. "What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind? Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces. Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say, 'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.'

"I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!

This is the gospel of Christ

Praise to Christ, the Word

Sermon:

Brought to us by Pip Harry

Intercessions:

Given through Denise Norris

Peace:

Please turn to page 485 in the Prayer book.

Offertory Hymn: Come Now Lord Jesus

Come now, Lord Jesus,
enter our Christmas,
be to us no stranger
in this new-made manger.

Come, small and human,
born of a woman,
yet a Son much greater
of our own Creator.

Come, cold and crying,
comfort denying,
no place to receive You,
few yet to believe You.

Come, poor and simple,
our flesh Your temple
in Your body feeling
hurt as well as healing.

Come, gift and token,
bread to be broken -
star and sign still point You,
myrrh will yet anoint You.

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Communion

(prayer is available near the High altar during communion)

Closing Hymn: Jubilate Everybody

Jubilate, everybody,
serve the Lord in all your ways
and come before His presence singing;
enter now His courts with praise.
For the Lord our God is gracious,
and His mercy everlasting.
Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo!

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Fred Dunn (1907-1979) P in S 222

Sending Forth: Go now to love and serve the Lord; go now in peace.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

*"Before the time of the beginning The Word was face to face with God. He was there before the ages in intimate union with God, and fully God. Everything that is came into being in Him. And not one thing has existence apart from Him. In the Word life was and came to be, and this life is light, the true origin and meaning of human life. **And the light of life shines in the gloom of darkness**, and darkness does not understand the light, neither can it stop it shining." John 1:1-5.*

from Kruger translation



Ministry Team, 8th December, 2019

Liturgist: Ruth Kowalewicz **Server:** Raewyn Grey
Intercessor/Prayers: Denise Norris **Organist:** Finlay Clements
President: The Rev'd Brendon Wilkinson **Preacher:** Pip Harry
Welcome Team: Steve Darwall, Rex Geary
Morning Tea: Denise Norris, Kate Jones
Te Puru: The Rev'd Lilian Barrett

Parish Community News

Congregation - please stay after the service and join in with the special "thank you" morning tea for all our supporters!

*****Still a few calendars available*****

- * **Christmas Services: 24th December - 7pm - Family Service; 10pm - Coffee, Cake and Carols, 11pm - Midnight Service Christmas Day Service: 9:30am.**
- * **Inspire Group: 20th - last day for 2019, recommencing 6th January.**
- * **NAMED envelopes are now at the back of the church for collection.**

Prayer Needs

"When that day comes, you will know that I am in my Father and that you are in me, just as I am in you." John 14:20, Good News Translation.

In this busy Christmas time, please remember our clergy in prayer and also those who cannot be with us today.

This week, 15th—22nd December, 2019

Tuesday 17th: Bible Study, Last study for 2019. 1pm at the home of Fiona Harden, 101 Warahoe Road, RD1, Thames. 07 868 1136.

Wednesday 18th: Selwyn Group, Last day for 2019. 9:30-12:00, Church Hall. Beginning again 8th January. All welcome.

Thursday 19th: Last for 2019. 10am Healing Service and Holy Communion, St George's Chapel. Recommencing 16th January.

Friday 20th: Last day office open. Reopening Tuesday 14th January.

Wednesday 25th December 12pm: A place at the Table Christmas Lunch.

Sunday, 22nd December, 9:30

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

Sharon Cordery

Psalm: 80: 1-7, 17-19

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul Jennings

3rd Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Diane Buchanan

Preacher & Presider:

The Rev'd David Cooper

Liturgist:

Sue Lewis O'Halloran

Server:

Leslie Wilkinson

Music Ministry/organist:

Stuart du Preez

Intercessions:

Stephen Williams

Sanctuary Guild: Leslie Wilkinson, Denise Norris, Vivienne Baggaley

Lyn Wilson & Helpers

Morning Tea:

Welcome Team:

Vivienne Baggaley, Doug Norris

Vicar: The Rev'd Brendon Wilkinson

Email: vicar@thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz

Vicar's Warden: Kate Jones

People's Warden: Lynne Mounsey

Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri, 9 am-1 pm. * Closed 20th Dec—14th Jan.

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