



Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Sunday 29th November 2020
Led by Natasha Brady

Welcome to this Advent Family Service

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep”.

Romans 12.15

Welcome & Notices

Opening Prayer

O people of God, let us draw near to God.
O people who sometimes do not listen,
let us listen to God's name
and be renewed by the 'Name Above All Names',
the name of our maker, who made us,
and who shapes us to be vessels of light in waiting times.
Come, let us worship.
Let us worship the 'Name Above All Names'.
Amen.

Song "You are the Potter"

You are the potter and I'm the clay
Take me and shape me in your way
I know you love me as I am

Hold me and mould me in your hands
Hold me and mould me in your hands

I want to serve you all I can
I want to be apart of your plan
I want to service you completely
Here am I Lord send me
Here am I Lord send me

You are the potter and I'm the clay
Take me and shape me in your way
I know you love me as I am
Hold me and mould me in your hands
Hold me and mould me in your hands

I want to serve you all I can
I want to be apart of your plan
I want to service you completely
Here am I Lord send me
Here am I Lord send me
Here am I Lord send me
Here am I Lord send me

Songwriter: Steve Burnhope

A prayer as we light the Advent candle

Gathered here today,
we light a candle of hope,
knowing that in dark times
there is always a light that can be lit.
Let us, people in dusk and dawn,
light the light of vigilance,
knowing that God is always calling us
to justice, mercy and humility –
at this time of year,
and all times of the year.
Amen.

Confession

We have turned our face from you, O God,
whose face is always turned towards us.
We have forsaken what we know is just.
We have ignored what we understand is true.
We have refused to believe what should be believed.
We have deceived ourselves in word and deed.
For this, we humbly repent,
and we turn our face towards you –
who waits for us, and makes us ever new.
Make us ever new now, O restoring God.
Amen.

Reading Isaiah 64.1-9 read by Judy Giles

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!
² As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!
³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.
⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.
But when we continued to sin against them,
you were angry.
How then can we be saved?
⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
⁷ No one calls on your name
or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have given us over to our sins.

⁸Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;
do not remember our sins for ever.
Oh, look upon us we pray,
for we are all your people.

Sermon Pat Hegarty will be opening God's word for us today.

Creed

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3

Song "Did you feel the mountains tremble?"

Did you feel the mountains tremble
Did you hear the oceans roar
When the people rose to sing of
Jesus Christ the risen one

Did you feel the people tremble
Did you hear the singers roar
When the lost began to sing of
Jesus Christ, the saving one

And we can see that, God, You're moving
A mighty river through the nations
When young and old will turn to Jesus
Fling wide, you heavenly gates
Prepare the way of the risen Lord

Open up the doors and let the music play
Let the streets resound with singing
Songs that bring Your hope
Songs that bring Your joy
Dancers who dance upon injustice

Do you feel the darkness tremble
When all the saints join in one song
And all the streams flow as one river
To wash away our brokenness

And we can see that, God, You're moving
A time of jubilee is coming
When young and old return to Jesus
Fling wide, you heavenly gates
Prepare the way of the risen Lord

Open up the doors and let the music play
Let the streets resound with singing
Songs that bring Your hope
Songs that bring Your joy
Dancers who dance upon injustice

Songwriters: Smith Martin James

Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble? lyrics © Curious Music Uk, Bucks Music Group Ltd

Intercession prepared and read by Jamie Brady

Response: In You O Lord ~ **Do we put our trust**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Song "Shine Jesus Shine"

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
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This version from the Big Sing recorded at the Albert Hall

Final Prayer & The Grace

We have been called in, to be renewed in the name of the one who is love. Even in the darkest night, even when there is only one small candle lit, your power and love restore us.

Let your light shine on us as we go from here, so that we may be warmed and strengthened to light your light all around.

Amen.

And so together we say ...

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all now and for evermore. Amen.

Thank you for joining us today.



Contribute to our Reverse Advent Calendar

Tuesday 1st – Sunday 20th December

Donate to a local foodbank and join a whatsapp group curated by Alicen Nickson and Natasha to share photos of donations, thoughts about gratitude and blessings or bible verses. You may like to pray over the item(s) and for the person that will receive it.

Drop off points in Stoke Poges (accessible 24/7 from 1-20 Dec)

- outside St. Andrew's Church Rogers Lane, SL2 4LN
- outside the Vicarage, Park Road, SL2 4PE

We will be passing the donations to our neighbours at St. George's Church, Britwell who are hosting the Slough & Burnham Churches' Social Hub, which includes food, advice, friendship and practical front-line support to those in urgent need. They are open every day, meeting needs as they arise and they coordinate support with Slough food bank.

Items needed: cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce, lentils, beans and pulses, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, biscuit, UHT milk, fruit juice, washing powder, toothpaste, toilet roll, toiletries.

If you would prefer to donate your items to a different foodbank, please do take part in our whatsapp group and drop off your items to the foodbank of your choice (please note the Stoke Poges Store Cupboard is now fully stocked so will not be taking any more donations).

To join in the Whatsapp group please send your phone number to Alicen Nickson 07779 579041 alicen.nickson@virginmedia.com or via the church office office@stokepogeschurch.org

Going Deeper

29th November 2020

This week's reading: Isaiah 64.1-9

Bible Notes

Waiting and watching

Today we enter the season of Advent, the time when Christians prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. It is also the beginning of the Church's year, and so we embark upon a new gospel journey, through Mark.

In stark contrast to the mood of our high streets and supermarkets, Advent is a penitential season, and that mood is reflected in today's readings. Third Isaiah laments that 'we have all become like one who is unclean' (i.e. ritually defiled), and the psalmist, that tears have become the people's food and drink.

Today's passage from Third Isaiah falls into two parts, both of which are apposite as we enter the season of Advent. The first part, verses 1-5a, is an appeal for divine self-revelation, of which quaking mountains and fire were often features (v.3; see also Exodus 19.18). The people wait (v.4), for a new sign of divine intervention in their history, similar to that to Moses at Mount Sinai.

This is followed by a prayer of penitence (vv.5b-7) in which the prophet acknowledges the people's past transgressions that had caused God to punish them through exile in Babylon (v.7). The passage ends on a note of appeal (vv.8 and 9): God is the Father and Creator of his people, and so the prophet prays for mercy as he surveys the wreckage of the Holy City.

A personal prayer

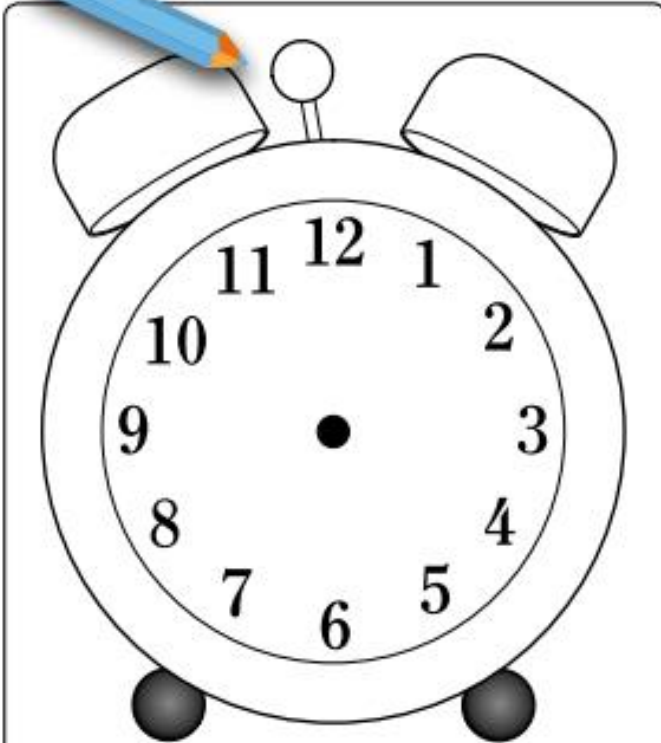
Come, Wisdom from above,
for you order all things through your love.
Show me the path of knowledge
and teach me to follow it. **Amen.**

Today's Bible reading

Isaiah 64.1-9

The people of God were waiting, and got frustrated and bad tempered. God reminded them that it is in God's hands. He is the potter in control of the clay.

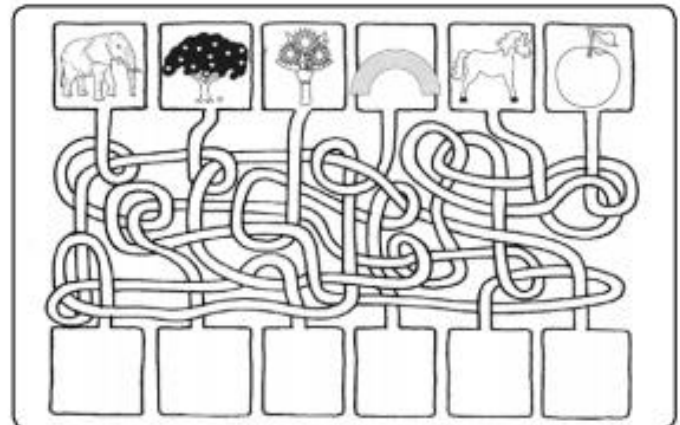
When do you find it hard to wait?



Draw a picture of yourself inside the clock face to remind you that you are God's work of art. You might like to use a mirror to help you.

Activity 1

Connect each picture to the right box at the bottom, and write the first letter of the word in the box. Rearrange the letters to spell a word that describes God.



Activity 2

God is the potter and we are the clay, the work of God's hands.

Add a drawing of yourself on the potter's wheel.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, our leader,
give us patience when waiting for you to
guide us,
not running ahead, not lagging behind.
Help us to follow you closely.
Amen.

Live your faith!

Get used to waiting for things. If you want something, wait ten minutes before asking. Can you wait for important things?

Check it out

During the weeks of Advent, read a version of the Nativity story. Just read a small section each week to build it up.