

**11th December 2021**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Bruce Stuart will be preaching to us today.**

**COLLECT**

 O Lord Jesus Christ,

 who at your first coming sent your messenger

 to prepare your way before you:

 grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries

 may likewise so prepare and make ready your way

 by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,

 that at your second coming to judge the world

 we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;

 for you are alive and reign with the Father

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

 one God, now and for ever.

**HYMNS**

**Processional**    **196 Hark a Herald voice is calling**

**Gradual 98 Come thou long expected Jesus**

**Offertory 295 Let all mortal flesh keep silent**

**Recessional 209 Hills of the North Rejoice**

**THE READING: Amos 5.18 – 24**

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!
   Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light;
   as if someone fled from a lion,
   and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
   and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
   and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
   and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,
   I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
   I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
   I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
   and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

**THE GOSPEL: Luke 3.7 – 18.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

**Please pray for those who are ill and those in particular need of prayer:**

Reza, Mehrzad, Faezeh, Mick, Ann, Nicole, Chris, Omid, Shaida, Anita, Emma, Sue, Huxley, Millie, Daphne, Julie, Fr Rob, Maggie, Victoria, Suzanna and Lee.

**And for those who have died.**

Jane & Arthur

May they rest in Peace & Rise in Glory

**CAROL SINGING FOR CHRISTIAN AID** Come and enjoy singing favourite carols for a good cause, outside M & S on Clarence Street 7-8pm on Thursday 16 December; or meet up at Kingston United Reformed Church in Eden Street from 6.30. All are welcome!

**NEWS & NOTICES**

**CHURCH SERVICES**

**Tuesday to Saturday 9am**

Celtic Prayer. (In Church, all are welcome to attend in person or on Online)

**Sunday 9.15am** Diddy Disciples

**Sunday 10.30am**  Parish Communion

**Sunday 11:30am – 1:00pm** Church open for private prayer

**Sunday 7pm online service of Compline**

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**CHURCH DECORATING 18th DECEMBER**

Do you have any foliage in your gardens?  We’re looking for Ivy, Holly, Eucalyptus, Pine cuttings, Yew, Conifer, twigs – basically anything evergreen for us to decorate the church at Christmas.

We’re trying to be sustainable this year to avoid the unnecessary additional purchases of flowers etc.  If you could please bring along your foliage to church on Saturday 18th December between 10am – midday that would be great!

And if you have any gold or silver spare baubles then please bring those along too!

We’d love to see a few of you, so why not come along anyway and lend a hand if you fancy it – there’ll be coffee/tea and a mince pie or 2!

Thank you

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**LITTLE GROOVERS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

On 21st December from 9.30 until 12.00 we shall be having a Little Groovers Christmas party. Festive craft activities, mince pies, music and a special visitor from Lapland. Please email to reserve a space as spaces will be strictly limited due to new covid restrictions littlegroovers.stjohnskingston@gmail.com.

**HOW TO GIVE TO ST JOHN’S**

A huge thank you to all who support St John’s through regular monthly or weekly giving! We rely on you to keep St John’s afloat and meet our £4k monthly contribution to the Diocese which pays for ministry here and supports parishes with fewer resources than us.

If you would like to give via a bank standing order, or make a one-off gift, our account is:

Kingston St Johns DCC

Sort code: 60-60-02

Account No: 11610220

Please mark your donation as ‘Gift’.

If you prefer a cash or card way of giving, we are now passing the collection bags around during services. There are Gift Aid envelopes available or cards you can pop into the bag to signal you already donate by standing order.

If you prefer a contactless option, we have a Card Reader available, or simply point the camera on your phone to the QR code below and follow the link to givealittle.co.uk. You will also find this link on our website – click on the DONATE button top right.



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