

**Advent 4C** Today's readings highlight what for me is the essence of Christianity: That Jesus came to save us, particularly the lowly, downtrodden and insignificant – that is, you and me. Sometimes I think we (and the powers that be in all aspects of life) place too much emphasis on who we are, where we fit in society and how important someone (us included) might be. Jesus and Mary both epitomise the humblest of origins, insignificant in the wider world. We should remember this – we have been chosen by God to represent his values on this earth and live our lives to be an example of his love.

**Christmas Day** David in Psalm 98 tells us to use our voice to 'sing a new song' and our music to praise and give thanks to God. This is how we can show our gratitude to God for all the gifts he has given us. Today we celebrate God's best and wonderful gift to us in Jesus.

How can you use your gift to 'shout with joy' to the Lord?

Give thanks for the gift of music to sing our song of joy and the freedom to do it.

Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, remembering the Christian communities, primarily Greek Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic, and Roman Catholic, in that city.

**BOOK REVIEWS** When the Christmas issue of The LINK came out last week, people mentioned how much they enjoyed reading the Book Review Harold did on The Red Dean of Canterbury – which was a reminder that we have many people at CHOGS who really enjoy their books. We always like to include reviews in The LINK if we can get them, so if you have just finished reading something you have really enjoyed (or not for that matter) we'd love to get your feedback. This can be handwritten, typed, emailed – whatever works for you. Feel free to speak to Colin Ames or myself *anytime*. Thank you. Chris Bates-Brownword.

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If you have any Pew Sheet notices or suggestions, please contact Rev Michael



# **ADVENT 4**



**19 December 2021**

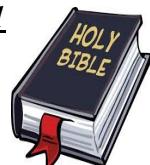
**Readings for First Sunday After Christmas 26 December, 2021**

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1.18-20,26.

Psalm: 148

2nd Reading: Colossians 3.12-17

Gospel: Luke 2.41-52



## DIARY OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY

*Fourth Sunday of Advent 12 December*  
 8.00am Eucharist  
 10.00am Sung Eucharist *Morning Tea*  
**10.30 The Pines Southern Cross**  
 10.00am Home Communion  
*St Thomas Apostle & Martyr*  
 10.00am Eucharist &  
 11.00am Bible Study *The Gift of New Hope*

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

**11.30 The Birth of our Lord** Christmas Eve  
**9.00am The Birth of our Lord:** Christmas Day  
*First Sunday After Christmas*  
 8.00am Eucharist & 10.00am Sung Eucharist

## DIARY DATE

SUNDAY 20 February *Annual Vestry a*

*Everyone is invited to the Lord's table to receive the eucharist or a blessing.  
 During Covid times we are using one kind.*

*Simply hold out your hand for the bread, bow your head for a blessing.*

*Low gluten wafers available.*

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Debbie Muchan, Fr Peter Miller, Betty Tassone and those known to us in the quiet of our hearts and minds.

We keep a **long-term prayer list** on the altar for people who have ongoing issues and want prayerful inclusion in worship. Names on this list are not published, are added as needed, and only removed when the issue has come to an end.

Please let Revd. Michael if you would like a name added to either list.

## REST IN PEACE

*We pray for the family and friends of those who mourn the loss of those whom they love*

## YEARS MIND

20 Jane Fanning, Phyllis Gooden, 24 John Lapthorne, 26 Kym Boyley



## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

God our Father,  
 whose will it is to bring all things  
 to order and unity in our Lord Jesus Christ: may all the  
 peoples of the world, now divided and torn apart by sin,  
 be brought together under his sovereign rule of love:  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Amen



## **Advent 4**

Today's gospel is about the importance of relationships. For the times we have not lived in right relationships with ourselves, others and God

Lord Jesus: You show us how to love each other.

Christ Jesus: You are the peace the world cannot give

Lord Jesus: You are the Son of God

## **The Nativity of the Lord**

Today we rejoice at the birth of Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel. As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of the incarnation, we pray that we live lives of peace as imagined by God for us all

Lord Jesus: You are Wonderful Counsellor, Prince of Peace

Christ Jesus: You are the reason for joy & the sure foundation of hope

Lord Jesus: You are the Saviour of the World, baby born in a manger, we are blessed to walk in your light.

## **Prompts for Faith Sharing**

### **Advent 4**

'Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice'  
 When was the last time you were or saw someone so filled with joy that there was a cry of delight? How do we express an experience of sudden joy? What kind of greeting makes you feel the most comfortable and loved? How do you imagine God in your personal times of prayer and reflection? The Face of God: where do you see the face of God in your own life. Who shows the face of God to you?

## **The Nativity of the Lord**

The incarnation is an act of God's self gift. Christmas is a time of giving. Today's celebration is an invitation to focus on the gift of life, love and relationships. How do we share ourselves with others? Do we listen attentively when someone speaks to us? Do we value the ordinary everyday opportunities we have to interact with the people who serve us or do we impatiently wish they would be more efficient in their job? How might we be more generous in the ordinary, everyday of our shared lives?