

Reflection: Mark 1 1-8

Today we are thinking about the coming of Christ in the near future, but especially today about the forecast of this tremendous event as reported by the strange messenger of God, John the Baptist— perhaps resembling in some way the prophet Elijah (from the Old Testament) as John too wore similar strange clothes and had that unusual diet.

His “wild man” appearance was significant too because it was generally believed and accepted that Elijah would return to earth before the Messiah came.

John’s role was to announce the coming of Jesus, and as such, he was pointing people to be prepared for that coming. In our turn, we are exhorted to listen to the good news, and to help others as well as ourselves to be sign-posted towards our Saviour.

John White



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 6 December to the end of January:

Meeting ID: 894 0983 2572

Passcode: 061920

Telephone numbers: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 13.12.20 3rd Sunday of Advent

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

READINGS



OT Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

NT 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel John 1: 6-8, 19-28

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 6th December 2020

2nd Sunday before Advent

10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)

12 noon Mass in Church

I am delighted to say that this 2nd Sunday of Advent we will resume our **12 noon Mass at St Thomas** with the traditional lighting of the Advent candles. There is also a Zoom service at 10.30 with new codes—please see the box on the back fold of this leaflet. John White is giving the talk at 10.30 and we welcome him to that. And keep creative—we saw wonderful examples of wreaths, candles and knitting last week.

Ian is undertaking an **Advent countdown** with posters on the notice boards, hall windows and website. Keep an eye out for this.

Thank you to **volunteers** who have come forward to help prepare intercessions and be sacristans. There is probably room for others on the sacristy rota, so do please speak to myself or Revd Sarah.

Fr David



Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him.

Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the

thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Revd Sarah is collecting donations and pledges for the Exeter-wide **Ecumenical Christmas Present Project**. This aims to provide all the children in Exeter whose families are using the Food Bank with a voucher for a Christmas present. Cheques to St Thomas PCC please.

There is the possibility of a **Zoom Nativity**. Questions and volunteers to Revd Sarah asap please.

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be back in the hall. Please continue to be generous.

Knit and Natter 24th November 2020 We shall continue with Zoom meetings on Thursday mornings. 11.15-11.55am, for the time being, thanks to Vanessa for setting this up. As always, we shall move with the times when we know more clearly what we can safely do together. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725

Ian Totterdell has completed the **Hospiscare Marathon in a Month**. Thanks to those who have given already; with gift aid the total is now just over £400, which is amazing! Ian is still accepting donations in person or through a just giving page. Details below: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Ian-Totterdell1