

PARISHES OF TETBURY, BEVERSTON, SHIPTON MOYNE AND LONG NEWNTON

Readings and Hymns for Sunday 10th December 2023 - Second Sunday of Advent

Gathering Prayer

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.**

Post Communion Prayer

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.**

Old Testament Reading: 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.

Gospel: 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 baptizer 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 baptized 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 baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Hills of the North rejoice

1. Hills of the north, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the ardent voice;
valley and lowland sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.
2. Isles of the southern seas
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.
3. Lands of the east, arise,
he is your brightest mom,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.
4. Shores of the utmost west,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.
5. Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the north they come,
from east and west and south:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

Charles Edward Oakley (1832-1865), adapted

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
trans. John Chandler (1806-1876) alt.*

Hark the glad sound

1. Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,
and ev'ry voice a song
2. He comes, the pris'ners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
3. He comes, the broken heart to bind,
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,

the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.
Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) based on Luke 4:18-19

Amazing grace!

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear;
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
5. When we've been there a thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
that when we first begun.

vs. 1-4: John Newton (1725-1807)

Mine eyes have seen the glory

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword.

God's truth is marching on.

Refrain:

Glory, glory hallelujah!

Glory, glory hallelujah!

Glory, glory hallelujah!

God's truth is marching on.

2. God has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat
and is sifting out all human hearts before the judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer; O be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on. [Refrain]

- 3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
as he died to make us holy, let us live to make all free,
while God is marching on. [Refrain]

4. He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave;
he is wisdom to the mighty: he is succour to the brave;
so the world shall be his footstool, and the soul of time his slave:
our God is marching on. [Refrain]

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