

St Mary of Charity

Part of the Benefice of Faversham

Third Sunday in Advent

15 December 2019

Welcome to the beautiful church of St Mary of Charity. Please do stay for a drink and fellowship. If you are here for the first time, please make yourself known to one of the clergy.

For our prayers:

- the St Mary of Charity clergy team and lay ministry and all whose ministry is in Faversham and the Ospringe Deanery;
- those affected by 'natural disasters' and extreme weather in the world;
- refugees throughout the world;
- the bereaved;
- those elected to represent us in local councils or parliament;
- those who work in disaster relief;
- those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire;
- those who are homeless or vulnerably housed;
- those who are experiencing financial hardship;
- those who work for the emergency services;
- those who volunteer their time to help others;
- those who are receiving medical treatment;
- the people of Syria, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan; and
- all who live in fear of violence and aggression.

9 am Matins

10.30 am Family Eucharist

Readings:

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

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.
Amen

Next Sunday:

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

James 5:7-10

Matthew 1:18-25



9 am Matins

Responses	Ferial
Psalm	146 vv 4-9
Canticles	Venite & Jubilate
Anthem	This is the truth; <i>Vaughan Williams</i>
Opening	On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry 46
Offertory	Christ is the world's light 609



On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

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.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

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.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Christ is the world's true light,

its captain of salvation,
the daystar clear and bright
of every land and nation;
new life, new hope awakes,
where peoples own his sway:
freedom her bondage breaks,
and night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet,
their ancient feuds forgetting,
the whole round world complete,
from sunrise to its setting:
when Christ is throned as Lord,
lands shall forsake their fear,
to ploughshare beat the sword,
to pruning-hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great name
unite us all who own thee;
cast out our pride and shame
that hinder to enthrone thee;
the world has waited long,
has travailed long in pain;
to heal its ancient wrong,
come, Prince of Peace, and reign!



Old Testament

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Here ends the Lesson.

Epistle

James 5:7-10

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Saint Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women
no one has arisen greater than John the
Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven
is greater than he.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



The stewardship/planned giving envelopes for 2020
are now available at the back of the church,
for those who use this scheme.

Advent thoughts of fellowship with persecuted Iraqi Christians

St George's of Baghdad has been supported by our church in the past, but this time it's not money, it's greetings. If between us we get lots of Christmas cards written with messages of encouragement and assurance of our prayers, then we can send them to Baghdad for Christmas via FRRME, Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East. Cards are on the table at the back of Church and also near the FVRSG notice board near the back by the Foodbank Board. Please take one now, write inside and put it in the box by the FVRSG board.



**Notices for Monthly Notice Sheet to Catriona by
Friday, 20 December, very latest!**

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