

**Stainton, Hilton and Brookfield**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – year B**  
**6<sup>th</sup> December 20**

**WELCOME. to Worship at home.**

**Thought for the day**

God is not looking for us to be wonderful people. If He'd wanted wonderful people, He would have made us wonderful. So He made us human beings. He made us to cry and to weep, to be frightened and afraid.

**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

**The book of the prophet Isaiah.**

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.

**Psalm 85.1–2, 8–13**

**Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.**

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

**The second letter of Peter.**

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 persons 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; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

### **The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Mighty God, your servant John the Baptist called people to change the way they lived and to prepare themselves for the coming of your son. Enable us to

discern the truth which draws us closer to you. Give us the courage to resist temptation.

We pray for all those who teach, preach and minister, may they be as fearless in proclaiming the truth as your servant John and may we be ready to adapt and change in response to their leadership.

Creator God, we pray for our world and the problems faced by so many in the ongoing pandemic.

We pray for all who live under the threat of war and terrorism and the poverty which comes in its wake. We pray for those who have little to eat, poor homes and few possessions.

Help us to care and to share and to give generously in the same way that you gave us your son Jesus Christ

Father God, your son Jesus lived an ordinary family life in Nazareth and so you understand the difficulties faced in family life. We pray for all of those involved in providing support for troubled families. As we draw closer to Christmas we pray for those families who will feel their problems increased by the need to provide what they cannot truly afford.

Merciful God, may your blessing be upon all those who are sick, in pain, anxious or troubled. We ask you to be close to those passing through dark places, to those undergoing treatments at home or in hospital and to give thanks for all working in the Health Services who are treating them.

Loving God, give rest to those who have gone from our lives to be with you. May they now live the life eternal and rest in everlasting peace in your presence, Strengthen the bereaved in their time of greatest need.

Holy God, we ask you to help us make time for true preparations this Advent. In the midst of the rush of life, help us to find inner quietness and an awareness of your presence. Let this Christmas be a time when we concern ourselves not so much with material things but focus more on the spiritual gifts you give so unselfishly.

**Let us say the Lord's Prayer knowing that we join with so many other Christians around the world.**

This Advent is not a time of groaning. It's a time for recognition that John the Baptist stands before you and says, "This is your God Himself".

"The One who created you, who loves you and will give you everlasting life, is coming. It's time to choose."

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