

Advent

Advent is the period of four weeks leading up to Christmas when Christians around the world wait and prepare for both the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas, and His second coming. As I write this, it's unclear whether and how we in Bredfield will be able to worship together during Advent - I very much hope that we will be able to safely. Whether or not this is possible, I invite you to read some of the Bible readings and collects (prayers) below. In that way we will be together, at least spiritually, with millions of others.

Sunday 29th November

Psalm: 80 verses 1 to 8

Old Testament: Isaiah chapter 64 verses 1 to 9

New Testament: 1 Corinthians chapter 1 verses 3 to 9

Gospel: Mark chapter 13 verses 24 to 37

Collect: Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;

that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 6th December

Psalm: 85 verses 8 to 13

Old Testament: Isaiah chapter 40 verses 1 to 11

New Testament: 2 Peter chapter 3 verses 8 to 15a

Gospel: Mark chapter 1 verses 1 to 8

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.

Sunday 13th December

Psalm: 126

Old Testament: Isaiah chapter 61 verses 1 to 4, and 8 to 11

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verses 16 to 24

Gospel: John chapter 1 verses 6 to 8, and 19 to 28

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.

Sunday 20th December

Psalm: 89 verses 1 to 8

Old Testament: 2 Samuel chapter 7 verses 1 to 11, and 16

New Testament: Romans chapter 16 verses 25 to 27

Gospel: Luke chapter 1 verses 26 to 38

Collect: God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Roger Ackerley

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