

Morecambe Parish Church Eucharist Readings & Hymns
17th December 2017
The Third Sunday of Advent

OPENING HYMN

24 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

COLLECT

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The servant of the Lord said:

- ¹ The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
- ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;
- ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
- ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.
- ⁸ For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
- ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

GRADUAL HYMN Psalm 126 (*Remain seated*)

The Lord has done great things for us; we sing and are glad!

The Lord has done great things for us; we sing and are glad!

The Lord has done great things for us; we sing and are glad!

The Lord has done great things for us; we sing and are glad!

When the Lord delivered us from our captors it seemed like a dream.

Then were our mouths filled with laughter, our tongues sang for joy.

The Lord has done great things for us; we sing and are glad!

The Lord has done great things for us; we sing and are glad!

Many people said, 'God has done great things, done great things for them'.

Truly, the Lord has done wonders; we sing and rejoice.

The Lord has done great things for us; we sing and are glad!

The Lord has done great things for us; we sing and are glad!

As the rivers will water the desert, O God, bring us back!

Those who are sowing in sorrow shall sing as they reap.

The Lord has done great things for us; we sing and are glad!

The Lord has done great things for us; we sing and are glad!

They went out to the fields full of sorrow, sowing the seed;

they come back from the harvest rejoicing, bearing their sheaves.

The Lord has done great things for us; we sing and are glad!

The Lord has done great things for us; we sing and are glad!

When the Gospel is announced, the response is:

Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?'

²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'

²¹ And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.'

²² Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

²³ He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

²⁵ They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?'

²⁶ John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know,

27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'

28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

At the end of the Gospel, the response is:

Praise to you, O Christ

OFFERTORY HYMN

¹Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

²Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

³Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light!

⁴Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light!

⁵Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light!

As Junior Church come into church we sing:

God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God's love is strong and it never ends.

COMMUNION HYMN

¹Beauty for brokenness

Hope for despair

This, in your suffering

Lord, is our prayer

Bread for the children

Justice, joy, peace

Sunrise to sunset

Your kingdom increase!

²Shelter for fragile lives

Cures for their ills

Work for the craftsman

Trade for their skills

Land for the dispossessed

Rights for the weak

Voices to plead the cause

Of those who can't speak

God of the poor

Friend of the weak

Give us compassion we pray

Melt our cold hearts

Let tears fall like rain

Come, change our love

From a spark to a flame

³ Refuge from cruel wars
Havens from fear
Cities for sanctuary
Freedoms to share
Peace to the killing-fields
Scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness
His cross for the pain

⁴ Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned
Our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness
Carelessness, greed
Make us content with
The things that we need

⁵ Lighten our darkness
Breathe on this flame
Until your justice
Burns brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of your ways
Seek your salvation
And bring you their praise

*God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame*

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POST COMMUNION HYMN

¹ Heaven shall not wait
for the poor to lose their patience,
the scorned to smile, the despised to
find a friend:
Jesus is Lord:
he has championed the unwanted;
in him injustice confronts its timely end.

² Heaven shall not wait
for the rich to share their fortunes,
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the
least:
Jesus is Lord;
he has shown the master's privilege -
to kneel and wash servants' feet before
they feast.

³ Heaven shall not wait
For the dawn of great ideas,
thoughts of compassion divorced from
cries of pain:
Jesus is Lord;
he has married word and action;
his cross and company make his purpose
plain.

⁴ Heaven shall not wait
for our legalised obedience,
defined by statute, to strict conventions
bound:
Jesus is Lord:
he has hallmarked true allegiance -
goodness appears where his grace is sought
and found.

⁵ Heaven shall not wait
for triumphant Hallelujahs,
when earth has passed and we reach another
shore:
Jesus is Lord
in our present imperfection;
his power and love are for now and then for
evermore.