

**Readings, Collect and Year's Mind
for Sunday 5th December, 2021
Advent 2**

Hymn: NEH 5 Hark! a herald voice is calling

In our Year's Mind this week, we pray for: Charles Dodson, Helen McConnell, Ann Wotherspoon

We also give special prayers for: Chris & Susie for their ministry in the Ukraine, Glynis, Masami, Peter, Joan M., Delia, Roddy, Nancy, Jane T., Pam B., Claire A. & family, and Jenny, Colin & family.

The Intercessions are being led by Roddy Simson

Collect for Advent 2

Stir up our hearts, Lord,
to prepare the way of your only-begotten Son:
that, in his coming,
we might serve you with our hearts made pure;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end,
Amen

The Old Testament Reading is Malachi 3: 1-4

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle Luke 1: 68-79 (Benedictus Dominus)

1. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel: for he hath visited and redeemed his people;
2. And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us: in the house of his servant David.
3. As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets:
 which have been since the world began;

4. That we should be saved from our enemies: and from the hands of all that hate us;
5. To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers:
and to remember his holy Covenant;
6. To perform the oath which he sware to our fore-father Abraham:
that he would give us.
7. That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies:
might serve him without fear;
8. In holiness and righteousness before him: all the days of our life.
9. And thou child shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest:
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
10. To give knowledge of salvation unto his people for the remission of their sins;
11. Through the tender mercy of our God:
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;
12. To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet in-to the way of peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading is Philippians 1: 3-11 (Read by Liz Mackay)

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel.

For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading is Luke 3: 1-6

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Hymn NEH 234 Christ, whose glory fills the skies

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

Hymn NEH 466 Thou whose almighty word

The Anthem is the Canticle, Benedictus Dominus, from Luke 1: 68-79 (The text is above.)