

**Readings, Collect and Year's Mind
for Sunday 19th December, 2021
Advent 4**

In our Year's Mind this week, we pray for Winifred Miller, Frances Lamb, Alexander Limont, Ethel Henderson, Winifred Arnott, Alice Todd, Florence Russell, Kenneth Champion, Mildred Watt, Joan Dodson

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

The Intercessions are being led by Janet Young

Collect for Advent 4

Stir up your power, Lord, and come:
and strengthen us by the might of your love;
that, although we are hindered by our sins,
your abundant grace and mercy may quickly come and save us;
for you live and reign with the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end .

Amen

The Old Testament Reading is Micah 5: 2-5a (Read by John Raymond)

The Lord says to his people: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80: 1-7

1. Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

4. O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
5. You have fed them with the bread of tears;
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6. You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading is Hebrews 10: 5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book, it is written of me).'

When Christ said, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading is Luke 1: 39-55

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the

proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
who chose the blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen