

13 DECEMBER 2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10.00 AM—FRIDAY EUCHARIST

8.30AM— SUNDAY EUCHARIST

ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST
— EST. 1888 —
ANGLICAN CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SERVICES

**The next Friday service will be held on Friday 18th of December at 10.00am.
The next Sunday service will be a combined service at 8.30am on Sunday 20th December.**

Pre-registration is not required for the Friday service, but is for the Sunday service. Please register online at <https://stjohnsbulimba.org/what-we-do/online-worship/> or call Felicity Scott on 0431 599 662 by Saturday 19th at 10.00 to make your booking for the Sunday service. We cannot guarantee you a seat if you have not booked, due to limitation on numbers. At recent services we have had room for more attendees so please come even if you have not booked.

A Prayer in the Midst of a Crisis

*Holy God, who created us for and from love,
in this time of social distancing, hold us close in your arms.
Comfort those who are afraid, enliven those who are bored,
give courage to those who are distressed,
and warm those who feel the cold touch of loneliness.
Breathe in, with and through us as we walk through uncertainty into a new future
knowing that you are with us now and await us there.
In the name of Christ the Beloved we pray.
Amen.*

By the Rev. Canon Dr. Ellen Clark-King, Vice Dean and Canon for Social Justice at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

**Locum: Fr Terry Booth
(Sunday, Tuesday, Friday)**

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BSB 704 901 Account number 00014573. Account name Bulimba Anglican Parish**

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God. *Isaiah 61.1-2*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today we relight the first two candles of the Advent wreath. The candle of **HOPE** and the candle of **PEACE**.

Now we light the third candle of Advent.

This is the candle of **JOY**. As the coming of Jesus, our Saviour, draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth.

From the Book of Isaiah we read the words of our Lord:

"But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight."
-- Isaiah 65:18

From the New Testament, the words of Paul to the people of the church at Galatia:

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit." *-- Galatians 5:22-25*

Let us pray:

We joyfully praise you, O Lord, for the fulfilment of your promise of a Saviour and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of salvation through the birth of your son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait, and help us to see your glory as you fill our lives with your living Spirit.
Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son: grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power and glory to establish his rule of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

1ST READING: ISAIAH 61.1-4, 61.8-11

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; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 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. 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. 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. 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.

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. 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.

PSALM 126.

1. When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:
then were we like those restored to life.
- 2. *Then was our mouth filled with laughter:
and our tongue with singing.***
3. Then said they among the heathen:
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4. *Truly the Lord has done great things for us:
and therefore we rejoiced.***
5. Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:
as the streams return to the dry south.
- 6. *Those who sow in tears:
shall reap with songs of joy.***
7. They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:
shall come again in gladness, bringing their sheaves with them.

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5.12-28

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

GOSPEL: JOHN 1.6-8, 1.19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' 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. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reflection.

In this week's Gospel we have part of John's stunning Prologue. We also have John's introduction of John the Baptist. The one who sets the scene for the coming Messiah. John's appearance is prophesied. In fact, he is the last of the Old Testament style of prophets, coming out of the wilderness and preaching judgement and repentance. John makes it very clear that he is not the

Messiah and points to the one to come. Jesus will turn up soon enough.

From the very beginning of the narrative in John's Gospel there is a tension with the Jewish leaders who want to know "who are you?" - first John and then Jesus himself.

The rest of the Gospel is taken up with answering this question.

We give thanks to God for John the evangelist and his Gospel of profound wisdom and witness.

Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of Central Africa

Text: The Very Rev Phillip Saunders, Dean of Canberra and Goulburn© Anglican Board of Mission, 2020

THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:

IN THE WORLD: -

- ◇ **The Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury):** †Timothy Thornton - Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands
- ◇ **Ministry with the Aboriginal People of Australia:** †Chris McLeod

IN THE DIOCESE: -

- ◇ **The Parish of Noosa:** Chris Johnson, Lynda Johnson, Chris Ivey
- ◇ **Sudanese Congregations in ACSQ .**
- ◇ **St John's Anglican College, Forest Lake:** Head of College - Maria McIvor; Chaplain - Vacant; Chair of College Council - Steve Scott; members of College Council; staff & students

LOCALLY:

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Bronwyn, Duncan Family, Kerrie, Roselee, Steph and Chris, Kerry, Gloria, Joseph, Linda, Bernie, Don, Andrea, Graham, Pat, Peter.

IN MEMORY, DECEMBER 13—DECEMBER 19

JOHN HENRY LAWRENCE—(1980) PIXIE SMITH—(2011)