

Christ Church, Erith



Sunday 23rd December 2018 – Fourth of Advent

08.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Parish Communion

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.

Amen.

First Reading: Micah 5.2-5a

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.

Psalm 80.1-8

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock;

Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation.

Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears; you give them abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10.5-10

Consequently, 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 he said above, ‘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.

Gospel: Luke 1.39-45

In those days 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.’

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.**

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS TREES: Many thanks to Claire Perkins and all who have contributed to the success of the Christmas Tree Festival. We need some volunteers for assistance with tree stripping / removal after the 10am service on **Sunday 6th January**. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of Church should you wish to volunteer.

KIDS CLUB normally meets every 2nd 3rd 4th and 5th Sunday for age 6-11, for younger children there are books and activities available in the Children's corner. First Sunday each month is All Age Service and the children remain in Church sitting with their families. Any adults or teenagers would like to explore helping with Kid's Club, is invited to speak with Jacki Clement or Tasha Archer

INTERCESSIONS are the time during our service when we pray for the world, the Church and for us and our Community. Please refer any pastoral concerns for members of the congregation or members of the local community to any member of the Ministry team.

Please pray for the sick, frail, housebound, those in care and for those who are homeless. Requests left in the book at the back of the North Aisle will be offered each week at the Parish Communion.

This week we pray especially for the staff and patients of **Erith Hospital**, also the staff, commuters and travellers of **Erith Railway Station**.

CLOAKROOM FACILITIES are available in the Church Hall during church services.

GIFT AID DONATIONS: We welcome all donations and there are Gift Aid envelopes at the back of church. If you pay tax we can reclaim 25p for every pound you donate to the Church at no cost to yourself, if you have completed the declaration on the envelope. For information, please speak to a Churchwarden or Sides person.

CHOR singing is a wonderful way in which we can take part in serving God. If you would like to join the choir or would like to find out more about opportunities to sing, please do not hesitate to speak with Ed or with Mthr Monica. Rehearsals will be on alternate Thursdays at 7.30pm and alternate Sundays after the 10am service.

ROTAS: If you would like to join the Rota for coffee, readers, becoming an altar server, a crucifer, or joining the choir please let us know.

BELLRINGING: If you or anyone you know would be interested in learning about this, please speak with Natalie Slator.

This Week

Crib Service

Monday 6pm

Midnight Mass

Monday 11.30pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion

Tuesday 10.00am

Holy Communion in Christ Church

Thursday 9.30am

Next Sunday 30th December

Holy Communion at Christ Church - 8.30am

There is no 10am service at Christ Church. Instead, a joint service will be held at St Johns (10am).

New Years Eve

Night Watch Service at St Johns from 10pm to 12.15am. All are invited.

Morning Prayer

Resumes on Wednesday 2nd January at 09.30

Contact Details

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For Hall bookings:

Visit our website www.christchurchhall.org.uk to check availability before contacting Ayodeji ("DJ") Akande on 07415 071932 or emailing: bookings@christchurchhall.org.uk

*Contact details of other office holders and more information can be found in the parish magazine at the back of church so do buy a copy **only 50p***

