

**Second Sunday of Advent,
Sunday, 5th December 2021**



Dear Friends,

Revd Jax thanks you all for your prayers and good wishes as she and Rod continue to recover from Coronavirus. Thankfully, their son, Alexander has made a full recovery, for which we give thanks to God.

Please find below some resources to help your meditations as we journey on through Advent.

Evelyn Underhill – To be Refreshed by Christ’s Presence

Taken from ‘*The Mount of Purification*’ by Evelyn Underhill, 1960 p. 93.

O blessed, Jesu Christ, who didst bid all who carry heavy burdens to come to Thee,
Refresh us with Thy presence and Thy power.
Quiet our understanding and give ease to our hearts,
by bringing us close to things Infinite and Eternal.
Open to us the mind of God that in His light we may see light.
And crown Thy choice of us to be Thy servants
by making us springs of strength and joy to all whom we serve.

Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Peace

Lord Jesus, Light of the World,
the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble.
Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide.
We ask that as we wait for you to come again,
You would remain present with us.
Help us today, and every day to worship you,
to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other.
We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.



Psalm 75 - Thanksgiving for God's Wondrous Deeds

1 We give thanks to you, O God;
we give thanks; your name is near.
People tell of your wondrous deeds.

2 At the set time that I appoint
I will judge with equity.

3 When the earth totters, with all its inhabitants,
it is I who keep its pillars steady. Selah

4 I say to the boastful, "Do not boast,"
and to the wicked, "Do not lift up your horn;

5 do not lift up your horn on high,
or speak with insolent neck."

6 For not from the east or from the west
and not from the wilderness comes lifting up;

7 but it is God who executes judgment,
putting down one and lifting up another.

8 For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup
with foaming wine, well mixed;
he will pour a draught from it,
and all the wicked of the earth
shall drain it down to the dregs.

9 But I will rejoice[a] forever;
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

10 All the horns of the wicked I will cut off,
but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

Canticle of The Benedictus - The Song of Zechariah

(Luke 1.68–79)

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
 who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
 born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
 to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
 and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, ♦
 holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
 by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.



'Zechariah and John the Baptist' – The Monastery of the Cross, Jerusalem

Luke 3:1-6 - The Proclamation of John the Baptist

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.'

Schedule of Services

This schedule is correct at this time but may be subject to future alterations – please check on our website for the most up-to-date information.

All services start at 10am, unless marked differently on the table below

Please could you continue to book to attend services by contacting the Benefice Office on 01962 880 845 or office@downsbenefice.org.uk

Please would you also continue to wear masks until we are advised otherwise.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Ch</i>	<i>Cr</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Sp</i>	<i>Wh</i>
<i>5th Dec</i>	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	4pm – Posada		6pm – Autumn Mediations – Maximillian Kolbe
<i>12th Dec</i>		6pm – Carol Service	Holy Communion	6pm – Carol Service	10am - Carol Service
<i>19th Dec</i>	4pm – Carol Service	Holy Communion	6pm – Carol Service		
<i>22nd Dec (Wed)</i>			Mid-Week Holy Communion		

<i>24th Dec</i>	4pm – Crib Service	4.30pm – Nativity in the Barn	4pm – Crib service	4pm – Crib Service and 11.30pm – Midnight Service	2.30pm – Crib Service
<i>25th Dec</i>	Family Service	Family Service	Holy Communion	Family Service	Family Service
<i>26th Dec</i>	No Services				
<i>2nd Jan</i>	Morning Prayer		4pm – Café Church	10am – Patronal Festival - BCP Sung Eucharist	