

## THE CHAPEL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Christmas - 08<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Theme: *'Messengers of the Bible Prepares the Way with faith'*

### THE GATHERING & PREPARATION

Processional Hymn      6      **On Jordan's bank the Baptist cries**

#### Welcome & Call to Worship

Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. *Ephesians 6:17*

#### The Candles of Advent - Advent 2: Preparation

Today we light the candle of Preparation. God kept his promise of a Saviour who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". By lighting this candle we are saying "Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! As it is written in the book 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.'" With this 2<sup>nd</sup> Candle we remember the PROPHETS of the Old Testament whose tradition culminated in the ministry of John the Baptist or the Forerunner.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory forever. Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets, but in our days you speak through your Son, whom you have appointed the heir of all things. Grant us, your people, to walk in his light, that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement; for you are our light and our salvation. Blessed be God

*All: Blessed be God's Name for ever.*

#### Call to Penitence

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' So let us return to the Lord in penitence and faith. *cf John 1: 23*

*SILENCE as we recollect our sins of omission and commission*

### Confession

**Merciful God, how many prophets of your light have we ignored because they were not what we were looking for? How many times have we ignored voices crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord." How many times have we breathed a sigh of relief, and turned our backs on your messengers, because they did not speak the message we expected to hear? Help us hear anew, the cry of those who would lead us to Christ. Tune our ears to your heralds, that we might also testify to your light. Amen.**

### Kyries

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### Absolution

May the God of peace sanctify you completely. And may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful. It is the Lord who will do this. **Amen.**

### **COLLECT** *for the day*

Blessed Lord, you sent your messengers, the prophets, to preach repentance and gave us the Scriptures to point the way to Salvation: teach us to hear them, read them and study them with love and prayer and strengthen us by their inspiration to hold firm the hope of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### Old Testament Reading

*Baruch 5: 1 - 9*

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Canticle

*Benedictus (Luke 1: 68 - 79)*

1. 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.
  - 2. He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David,**
  3. as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
  - 4. that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**
  5. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,
  - 6. the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us**
  7. that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,
  - 8. in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**
  9. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
  - 10. to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.**
  11. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
  - 12. to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.'**
- Glory 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.**

Epistle Reading

*Philippians 1: 3 - 11*

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 on 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.

Gradual Hymn

**207 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'  
**Alleluia.**

Gospel

*St. Luke 3: 1 - 6*

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." "

Sermon

Creed

*Page 5 of the Liturgy Books*

**We Believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And of all things visible and invisible;**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, Through whom all things were made: Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose Kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the Prophets.**

**And we believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen**

Offertory Hymn

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**O Jesus I have promised,**

Offertory Prayer

*Second prayer on page 7 of the Liturgy Books*

**THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT** (*From page 8 of Liturgy Books*)

Proper Preface

And now we give thee thanks because thy Son our Lord was awaited by the prophets, announced by an angel, conceived by a virgin, and proclaimed at last to men and women of every race. Therefore...

Communion Hymns

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**Jesu the very thought of Thee**

**AFTER COMMUNION & DISMISSAL**

The Thanksgiving for Communion

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious :

**God's mercy endures for ever.**

Sentence

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, *2 Timothy 3: 16*

After 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.**

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing...

Notices & Tributes

1. Today will be the last Sunday service for the term. The services will resume on the 12th of January 2025 for the new year.
2. The Christmas Eve service will take place as usual on the 24th of December 2024 starting at 11.15pm.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord :

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Recessional Hymn      407      **Through all the changing scenes of life**

*Thank you for using the online pew sheet. We will continue to use this in the service in order to reduce the cost of printing. We will continue to print a few pew sheets for those who still prefer to have a printed copy of the same.*