

Please pray for:

Ministry Educator Anne Van Gend, CYF Educator - John Graveston, the Diocesan office staff, and Council.

For peace in the Middle East, Ukraine and Russia, Sudan.

For Bp Ross Bay who is our Commissary for Bishop Elect Anne Van Gend.

Those who are sick: Alan & Noeline, Andrew, Andy, Bill, Caroline, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Dorothy H, Eleanor D, Gerald, Heather, Hope, Jim & Eleanor L, Joan F, Jane & Steve B, Myrtle, Lexie, Louise, Margaret S, Pat G, Pauline, Philip, Rex & Rachel, Ruth, Sarah, Steve B, Ruby, Val H and family



Southern Coastal Deanery

8 December 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent

Messengers of Change

Advent offers the church the opportunity to mark God's coming and prepare in faith. Its reminder is one we carry throughout the year; God enters our world, bringing justice and salvation. How are we to prepare? What do we proclaim?

Malachi 3:1-4 speaks of a Messenger who will refine and purify Israel to be prophets to all the world. We are made shiny and new with God so that we can share God's righteousness with others.

Zechariah knew Malachi's words well, yet never imagined his part in bringing the prophecy to life. His song in Luke 1:68-79 is his first utterance in months. When the messenger, Gabriel, tells Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth would bear a son, Zechariah responds with fear, skepticism, and cynicism. As a result, he is unable to speak until his son John is born (1:19-20). Thus, John's birth evokes the question - "What will this child become?" (1:66). Zechariah, himself God's messenger, speaks over John almost as a liturgical response to this question and names his son as the messenger who will prepare the way for the coming saviour.

Another important background to this text, and Luke as a whole, is Mary's previous visit to Elizabeth. Luke indicates their two children share ties of kinship. More importantly, they share in the revealing of God's promised reign. John will announce that realm even as he will prepare the way for Jesus.

Not to be overlooked in these verses is the voice of a father blessing his child. As a priest, Zechariah knew the prophetic traditions. The ways they faced were not always easy. The words they spoke were often not accepted. But as Hannah sang over Samuel, and Mary gloried in the promise of God's reign and her child, Zechariah speaks now. Zechariah sings of his son as a gift and a call for the sake of a whole people.

Verse 68 celebrates God's redemption as something already come to

Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

Worship Schedule

Brighton 10.30a.m. 1st and 3rd Sundays

Green Island 10.30a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays

Mornington 9.30am

3rd Sunday 4pm Soup & Communion

St Kilda 11a.m.

Midweek service

1pm communion at Holy Cross

Southern Coastal Deanery

St Margaret's 4 Seaview Road, Brighton - St Mark's 27 Shand St, GI

St Mary's 3 Whitby St, Mornington

Holy Cross 5 Bellona St. St Kilda

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pass. God's reign is a "now" experience – but it is also a "not yet" hope. John's work of announcing and preparing remains. We do not yet fully walk in the way of peace. We live between the times. But John prepares us to bridge those times, as we live toward God's reign in experience and hope. We will never know if John thought of himself as fulfilling the prophecy, but we know he fulfilled it.

In Luke 3:1–6 John the baptizer implores those gathered at the banks of the Jordan River – and us – to remove any obstacles that are hindering openness to the renewed ways of peace and justice that God has promised to reveal through the child to come. John speaks a bold word in anticipation of such saving love: Prepare!

In his letter to the people of Philippi, **Philippians 1:3–11**, Paul reflects the hope for purity, blamelessness, and righteousness found in the sentiments of all the other texts, and adds his assurance that we share in God's grace, and are held in God's heart.

Call to worship

God of wild words and present salvation in times past, you called your people to move earth, to dig, smooth and straighten the paths of love and justice. Renew our work, so that, like John the Baptist, Mrs Mafi and the Green apostles of Melanesia that we learnt of last week, we too may dig for love and act for justice
In the name of Christ, the saving One, we pray, Amen

Meet our CWS partners.

In Advent 1, we met Mrs Mafi, working to make sure "No one is left behind." As she works with her local community, they are discovering hopeful climate solutions. As they share traditional knowledge, they are finding ways to revive resilient food plants. As they revive organic gardening approaches, they are strengthening food security in their communities. The 2024 CWS Give climate hope this Christmas appeal is a way for us to give toward hopeful climate solutions for Mrs Mafi and her community.

We light the candle of Peace.

God of peace and compassion. May we be people who shine the light of peace in your world through our words and by our actions. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Sentence: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:78-79

Collect: Praise and honour to you living God for John the Baptist, and for all those voices crying in the wilderness who prepare your way. May we listen when a prophet speaks your word, and obey; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Kia whakamoemititia, kia whakanuia koe e te Atua ora tonu mō Hoani Kaiiriiri me ngā reo o rātou katoa e tangi ana i te koraha e whakawātea nei i tāu ara. Meingia mātou kia whakarongo i ngā kōrero ā te poropiti kia mahi ai i āu kupu; E īnoi ai mātou i roto i a te Karaiti tō mātou Kaihoko. Amine.

Readings. Malachi 3:1-4, Phil 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Hymns HTC 66 vs 1,2,3 O come O Come Emmanuel, HTC S 19 Make me a channel of your peace, NJ 90 Let us break bread, HTC 306vs 1,4,5. Forth in thy name O Lord I go

Readings for Dec. 15th 2024

Zeph 3:14-20, Phil 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

Notices

Tuesday 10th December 10.30am Diocesan Council meeting, 3pm Oasis, 6pm St Matt's vestry

Wednesday 11th December; 11am Home communion, 1pm Midweek Communion @ Holy 6pm South Dunedin Carol Service at Mercy Parish Macandrew Road.

Thursday 12th December; 10.30am-11.30am Fruit & vege Distribution Green Island, 4-5.30pm F & V at St Kilda, 6pm GGICN Xmas break up

Friday 13th December; 10.30am Meeting, 5.30pm Archdeaconry meeting.

Sunday 15th December; 10.30am Communion at Brighton, , 11am St Kilda communion, 4pm Christmas dinner at Mornington (Numbers to Jan by Thursday please)