



# WELCOME TO ST JOHN'S CHURCH

## BIBLE READINGS

New International Version – NIV UK

Sunday 06 December // 2020

Second Sunday in Advent

### FIRST READING

**ISAIAH 40:1-11** *Prepare the way of the Lord*

**40** Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out.' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' 'All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures for ever.'

<sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid;

say to the towns of Judah,  
‘Here is your God!’ <sup>10</sup> See, the  
Sovereign LORD comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm. See,  
his reward is with him, and his  
recompense accompanies him.

<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
he gathers the lambs in his arms and  
carries them close to his heart; he  
gently leads those that have young.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**2 Peter 3: 8-15a** *The day of the Lord*

<sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing,  
dear friends: with the Lord a day is  
like a thousand years, and a thousand  
years are like a day.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his  
promise, as some understand  
slowness. Instead he is patient with  
you, not wanting anyone to perish,  
but everyone to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come  
like a thief. The heavens will disap-  
pear with a roar; the elements will be  
destroyed by fire, and the earth and  
everything done in it will be laid bare.

<sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed  
in this way, what kind of people  
ought you to be? You ought to live  
holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look  
forward to the day of God and speed  
its coming. That day will bring about  
the destruction of the heavens by  
fire, and the elements will melt in the  
heat.

<sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we  
are looking forward to a new heaven  
and a new earth, where  
righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup> So then, dear friends, since you are  
looking forward to this, make every  
effort to be found spotless, blameless  
and at peace with him.

<sup>15</sup> Bear in mind that our Lord’s pa-  
tience means salvation, just as our  
dear brother Paul also wrote to you  
with the wisdom that God gave him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL READING

### **Mark 1:1-8** *John the Baptist prepares the way*

**1** The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way' – <sup>3</sup> 'a voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."' "

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan.

<sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise be to you, O Christ**

*Please keep these readings handy during the week. Go back to them and listen to what God is saying to you.*

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