

to

## ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



### 9.45 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST

#### Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

#### Readings

Isaiah 40 vv 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

2 Peter 3 vv 8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation

Mark 1 vv 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,"' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

**Psalm** 85 vv 8-end

### **Hymns**

- Prophet voices loudly crying (Tune : Angel Voices)
- Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding (26)
- Hail to the Lord's Anointed (87 vv 1,3 & 6)
- O Day of God, draw nigh (33)
- On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (34)

### **4.30 p.m. EVENSONG**

**Psalm** 40

### **Hymns**

- Creator of the starry height (25)
- Come, thou long-expected Jesus (24)

### **Readings**

1 Kings 22 vv 1-28

For three years Aram and Israel continued without war. But in the third year King Jehoshaphat of Judah came down to the king of Israel. The king of Israel said to his servants, 'Do you know that Ramoth-gilead belongs to us, yet we are doing nothing to take it out of the hand of the king of Aram?' He said to Jehoshaphat,

'Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?' Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, 'I am as you are; my people are your people, my horses are your horses.' But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, 'Inquire first for the word of the Lord.' Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred of them, and said to them, 'Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I refrain?' They said, 'Go up; for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.' But Jehoshaphat said, 'Is there no other prophet of the Lord here of whom we may inquire?' The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, 'There is still one other by whom we may inquire of the Lord, Micaiah son of Imlah; but I hate him, for he never prophesies anything favourable about me, but only disaster.' Jehoshaphat said, 'Let the king not say such a thing.' Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, 'Bring quickly Micaiah son of Imlah.'

Now the king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the threshing-floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets were prophesying before them. Zedekiah son of Chenaanah made for himself horns of iron, and he said, 'Thus says the Lord: With these you shall gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.' All the prophets were prophesying the same and saying, 'Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph; the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.'

The messenger who had gone to summons Micaiah said to him, 'Look, the words of the prophets with one accord are favourable to the king; let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favourably.' But Micaiah said, 'As the Lord lives, whatever the Lord says to me, that I will speak.'

When he had come to the king, the king said to him, 'Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we refrain?' He answered him, 'Go up and triumph; the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.' But the king said to him, 'How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?' Then Micaiah said, 'I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, like sheep that have no shepherd; and the Lord said, "These have no master; let each one go home in peace."' The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, 'Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy anything favourable about me, but only disaster?' The Micaiah said, 'Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, with all the host of heaven standing beside him to the right and to the left of him. And the Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab, so that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' Then one said one thing, and another said another, until a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, saying, "I will entice him." "How?" The Lord asked him. He replied, "I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." Then the Lord said, "You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do it." So you see, the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the Lord has decreed disaster for you.'

The Zedekiah son of Chenaanah came up to Micaiah, slapped him on the cheek, and said, 'which way did the spirit of the Lord pass from me to speak to you?' Micaiah replied, 'You will find out on that day when you go in to hide in an inner chamber.' The king of Israel then ordered, 'Take Micaiah, and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son, and say, "Thus says the king: Put this fellow in prison, and feed him on reduced rations of bread and water until I

come in peace.” Micaiah said, ‘If you return in peace, the Lord has not spoken by me.’ And he said, ‘Hear, you peoples, all of you!’

### Romans 15 vv 4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, ‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name’; and again he says, ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’; and again, ‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him’; and again Isaiah says, ‘The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.’ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Reflection – In thy coming

Let me love thee, O Christ, in thy first coming, when thou wast made man, for love of men, and for love of me.

Let me love thee, O Christ, in thy second coming, when with an inconceivable love thou standest and knockest at the door, and would enter into the souls of men, and into mine.

Plant in my soul, O Christ, thy likeness of love, that when by death thou callest, it may be ready and burning to come unto thee.

*Eric Milner-White*

### Entering Church

Taking into consideration the current Tier 3 situation, the corona virus statistics and concerns about numbers of people going into church apart from our Sunday worship the wardens along with Canon Elaine have made the decision that the lock on the outer door will be temporarily changed and only limited keys will be issued. This is for the health and wellbeing of everyone. Anyone wishing to enter the church for reasons other than services, although we do not envisage this being a regular request, will need to speak to Elaine, Claire or Alan. We hope that the majority of things can wait until Sunday when we are open as normal. Thank you for your co-operation on this.

### Mission of St. John’s Church

To be a caring community striving to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ;  
sharing in the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;  
and to love our neighbour, having the Eucharist at the centre of our worship.

## ADDENDUM

### Charity Donations

A big thank you to those who collected money in the boxes for the Children's Society this year. A total of £259.22 was collected and we were able to send a cheque to the Children's Society for £350 (including what we had raised earlier this year).

In addition, a total of £65.60 collected on Remembrance Sunday was sent to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Thank you on behalf of both charitable organizations.

### St. John's 200 Club

Just a reminder to those members who pay quarterly that the payment for 1<sup>st</sup> December is now due. Many thanks for continuing to support St. John's at this difficult time.

### Diocesan Advent Calendar

The diocese is putting a virtual Advent calendar together and we hope to have our Alternative Christmas Tree Festival featured so to sign up all you need to do is go the Diocese of Derby website, on the front page there is 'Receive the Diocese of Derby Advent calendar...' just fill in your email address, confirm and then you will receive a message every day. And hopefully we will be on there.

### St John's 'Postal' Service

A couple of people have asked about the giving out of Christmas cards to friends at St John's. Now under the guidelines we need to be very careful when handing items around so I have come up with a plan - We will have a post box! If everyone wishing to bring cards can put them in the box then I will sort and they will be delivered to your seat.(or home) The last posting date will be **Sunday 13th December** so that they can be safely sorted and delivered. If you are not able to get to church then they can be delivered to me - give me a call on 07870132201 to discuss - Claire (Warsop)

### Used Postage Stamps

As we approach Christmas card time just a reminder that Pat Gregory would like your used postage stamps please. These go to help The Bransby Home for Horses. There will be baskets in each porch so any donation of stamps can be left there. Thank you.

### Christmas Tree Festival

As we all know we will sadly be unable to have our usual Christmas Tree Festival. Charlotte and Claire have come up with a plan. Our usual participants have already received an email about it. Basically we are going to ask people to decorate a 'mini tree' which we will provide and then these will be hung on three large trees within the church. We will ask for a donation from participants which will then be divided between St. John's and a children's charity (yet to be decided). **We**

**are asking for your suggestions concerning the children's charity but we would prefer it to be a local one.** Depending on what further guidelines are issued by the Government as things progress we will aim to open for a one day viewing ... socially distanced, one-way system, all rules to be followed, just before Christmas. Watch this space for more information. If you want to join in, get crafting and decorate a mini tree and please contact either Claire Warsop or Charlotte.

### **Annual Raffle**

It has not been possible to organise our Annual Raffle in November this year. Plans are, however, being made to hold a raffle some time in January/early February. More details to follow.