



Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 7 am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: MP 679, vv1,2,5, The candle of hope vv1-2, TIS 264, TIS 283, TIS 272)

9 am: Family Communion (also streamed via ZOOM*)

(Hymns: MP 493, TIS 286, vv 1-2, MP 375, MP 679, vv1,2,5, TIS 283)

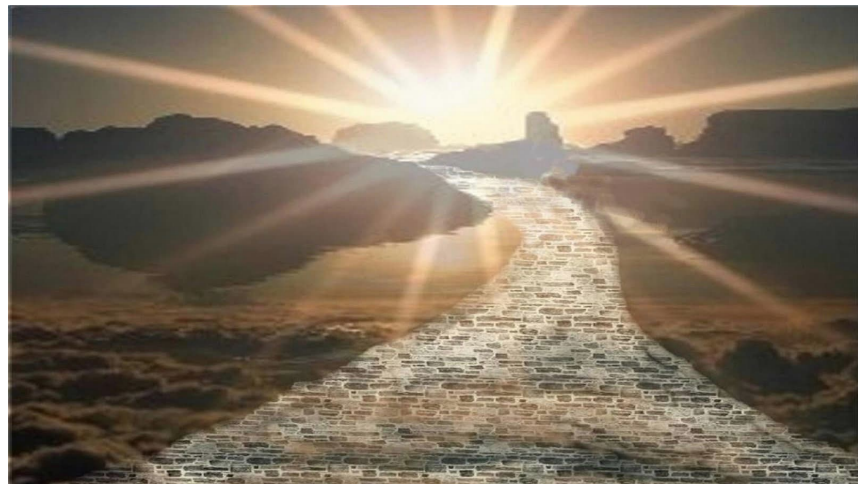
* <https://zoom.us/j/7210725462> or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462).
Contact the Parish Office for the password.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

Luke 3.4; Isaiah 40.5a

Rev'd Timothy writes

Our second set of readings for Advent, and still no angelic prophecies, astronomical portents, or donkey-back travel plans! Instead, the opening of Mark's gospel gives us a brief orientation via a scripture from Isaiah and then John "appears" in the wilderness, proclaiming a



baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And with this, Mark's gospel sets out at a fast pace. Its short sentences, action verbs, and a narrative that focuses more on what Jesus says than what he does.

So perhaps, on this second Sunday of Advent we can learn from the urgency of this text. We may not know exactly what we are preparing for, but whatever it is, it is for RIGHT NOW! There is no time to waste in this endeavour. And the people in the text weren't wasting much time making their way to John either. Something was beginning.

Advent is a time of new beginnings, for a reminder of the foundations of our faith, a recommitment to what defines us, and an opportunity for us to wake up and make pathways straight for Jesus to come into our communities anew.

In the northern hemisphere, Advent comes as the shortest day approaches, and Christmas as the solstice passes, so many of the images used reflect this dark to light. In the box to the right, I share with you a poem from the Iona community.

God in the dark

*Holy God,
before us, beside us, within us,
there is no place without you;
help us to recognise your presence
in the dark places,
the difficult places, of our lives;
even as we sing of your glory
in the light. Amen*

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From 'Winter'

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David Moy died last week on 4th December 2023.

His funeral will be held at St Luke's on Tuesday 12th December
at 10.30am

We give thanks for David's life,
and pray for Judy and the rest of his family

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

Readings for 2nd Sunday of Advent

First reading (7am & 9am)

A reading from the book of Isaiah

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² 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.

³ A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the
Lord ,
make straight in the desert a highway
for our God.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be
revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

⁶ 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.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows
upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for
ever.

⁹ 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!'

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ 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.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

¹ O Lord, you were gracious to your land:
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

² You forgave the iniquity of your people:
and covered all their sin.

⁸ I will hear what the Lord God will speak:
for he will speak peace to his people, to
his faithful ones, whose hearts are
turned to him.

⁹ Truly his salvation is near to those that
fear him:
and his glory shall dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth are met together:
righteousness and peace have kissed
each other;

¹¹ Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
and righteousness shall look down from
heaven.

¹² The Lord will also give us all that is
good:
and our land shall yield its plenty.

¹³ For righteousness shall go before him:
and tread the path before his feet.

Second Reading (9am only)

A reading from the letter the second letter of Peter

⁸ But 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. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² 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? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A  M
HONEY

Now available
at the back of
church. Buy
for Christmas!

Gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of Mark

¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ 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.

⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Mark 1:1-8

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Inala Pantry

The next delivery of donations to Inala will be made in time for Christmas. Donations of goods or cash welcomed.

Remind, Reveal, Reinforce

Through story and healthy tradition that reveal God's love to the world, we remind people of what has been. Let us drop the unnecessary. Let us break away from the stagnant and stale and be invigorated by reinforcing those practices that bear joy and cast our eyes upon the coming of the messiah.

Isaiah 40:1–11 reveals the voice of God through the prophet. "Prepare the way of the Lord!" Amid the Babylonian exile, the people Israel are grasping at straws to understand the place they have in their new reality. With Judah crushed and the temple in Jerusalem destroyed, what future is there for a people held captive in a far-off land where cultures mingle, and identity redefined? The voice of the prophet comes as a reminder to hold fast to who they are as God's people and make use of this time in exile to prepare. Verse three emphasizes the importance of continuing to work and prepare amidst the wilderness location. The length of time for this preparation is uncertain, but the prophet refers to humanity being like grass and flowers that wither and fade, yet God's word remains. This could perhaps reference an extended period or could refer to the eternalness of God. In either case, God's provision is the final word of this text and gives comfort to the people of Israel that all will be provided, even in the wilderness, as they prepare the way of God.

Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13 was most likely written in the post-exilic era when God has restored the people to their homeland. Yet these were years of hardship and uncertainty.

The voice of this psalm cries out, "with everything we have been through, surely our salvation is at hand." The activity of God will reach from the heavens to the very ground upon which the people of Israel stand, and that activity is bringing about peace and righteousness. In the context of Advent, our expectation is the same. God's activity stretches from the heavens to the ground upon which we stand.

The writer's emphasis in 2 Peter 3:8–15a is on a misunderstanding of time and how things will unfold. Peter helps the reader to understand better that our time is not God's time. God's desire is for all of creation to participate in this moment of "the day of the Lord." He emphasizes a disclosure, a revealing that will come of all Earth, where our reality is transformed into God's reality. Who will we be when that day comes?

Mark 1:1–8 One of the most commonly used biblical passages during the Advent season pulls from Isaiah 40 to introduce John the baptizer proclaiming repentance in preparation for the coming of the Messiah. As the people were in the midst of Roman occupation and heavy taxation, a word of liberation and redemption would have been popular. John reminds the people that repentance is a preparatory act for the coming One.



As we call on the connections between Isaiah and Mark, we look for opportunities for preparation. We remind ourselves of the restoration that we hope for ourselves and the world. We expect God to show up, to be revealed, in the everyday, the ordinary. And we know the faithfulness of God. God will show up, God restores, and God's provision is neverending. How can our actions become daily acts of worship that reinforce a God whose nature is love?

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At our 9am service this week, our parish will receive two awards from the Five Leaf Eco-Awards program. A Basic Certificate, which acknowledges the various actions we have taken, led by the parish Sustainability and Environmental Group, to raise awareness in these areas. The Eco Worship award acknowledges the incorporation of environmental themes into our liturgy, especially in the celebration of the Season of Creation in September.



The awards will be made by Louise Scott from Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Catholic Parish Stafford, who received their Five Leaf Eco-Awards in September 2022.

CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY AT ST LUKE'S

Come let us adore Him

Sunday 10th December

6pm Carol Service
(preceded by a community sausage sizzle at 5pm)

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December

9am Holy Communion for the 4th Sunday of Advent (also streamed on Zoom)

5pm Family service with nativity story and communion

11pm Holy Communion by candlelight (join us to sing carols from 10.30pm)

Christmas Day, Monday 25th December

9am Family Service with communion (also streamed on Zoom)

Sunday 31st December

9am Holy Communion for Epiphany (also streamed on Zoom)

Note: No 7am Service on 24th, 25th or 31st December

For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The World

Pray for all those working for peace in both Israel-Gaza and Ukraine.

Anglican Communion

The Church of Pakistan (United)

Ministry to the Defence Force: †Grant Dibden; Chaplains & Members of the Defence Force

The Parish of Pittsworth: Tony Swansson

Church Army

St Andrew's Anglican College, Peregian Springs: Principal – Chris Ivey; Chaplain – Gary McClellan; Chair of College Council – Rosalyn Cheales; members of College Council; staff & students

Pray for the Rt Rev'd Jeremy Greaves as he prepares to be installed as the new Archbishop of Brisbane on Saturday 16th December.

Our missionary partners

Leichhardt Chinchilla Anglican Mission Area (supported by the Bush Ministry Fund)

Our parish

Pray that many will come to our carol service and other services over Christmas and hear the gospel message.

Local Schools & Colleges

All students and teachers as they commence their school holidays

Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed

Ryan, Jocelyn Hawes, Peter F, Peter Pressdee, David F., Jan Moody, Robyn McElnea, June McNichol, Ash and Joh, Cathy, Janette Hagerty,

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

10 December: Mabel Evelyn Killen, Joyce Bertram; *12 December:* Edith May Bell, Edward John Erickson, Druzilla Ruth Newnham; *13 December:* Robert Henry Davidson, Albert Irwin Rock; *14 December:* Mary May Dowling; *16 December:* Olive Dawn Schomacker.

From a neighbouring church...All welcome.



Christmas Carols TONIGHT

Invite your family and friends

4pm: Children's Church break-up party

5pm: Community Sausage Sizzle

6pm: Carol

Service in church



the ROCK CHURCH

Join us for an
AMAZING NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM!

The Rock Church invites you to...

A Night in Bethlehem- FREE ENTRY

2 nights only

Tuesday 12th December 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Wednesday 13th December 6:00 – 8:30pm

406 Ipswich Road, Annerley

****Children MUST be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times****

www.therockchurch.org.au

Services This Week:

Tuesday—Friday

6pm: Evening prayer on Zoom

Tuesday 12th December

1.30pm Christmas service at Regis

Sunday 17th December

(Third Sunday of Advent)

7am: Holy Communion at St Luke's

9am: Family Service (St Luke's / Zoom) **No Children's Church**

Readings Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28, John 1:6-8,19-28

Keep in touch:

- priest@stlukesekibin.org.au
(Rector, Rev'd Timothy)
- admin@stlukesekibin.org.au (Office)
- families@stlukesekibin.org.au
(Children's church)
- 3848 2123 (Rectory and Office)
- P.O. Box 79, Wellers Hill, QLD 4121
- www.stlukesekibin.org.au
- @stlukesekibin

Parish Wardens:

- Brian Wood (0466 656 149)
- Alison Lampe (0408 183 701)
- Lynn Mitchell (0409 150 861)

Offerings:

Bank details (internet banking):

Anglican Parish of Ekibin

A/C 0000 7820

BSB 704 901

Or scan the QR code to give online:



<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?BillerCode=1709377>