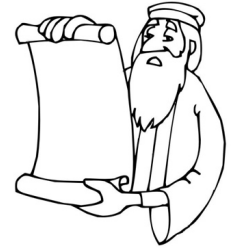




# 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## Second Sunday of Advent



Hymns: 273 276 261 283

### Sentence

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 40:5*).

### The Collect

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way of 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 forever. **Amen.**

### First Reading

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 40, beginning at verse 1.*  
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.

*Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 85, verses 8 to 13.*

**R: You forgave the iniquity of your people, and pardoned all their sin.**

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. **R...**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. **R...**

The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps. **R...**

## Second Reading

*A reading from the Second Letter of Peter, chapter 3, beginning at verse 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. 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 people 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.

*Hear the word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight his paths.

**Alleluia!**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 1, beginning at the first verse.*

### **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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 Baptist 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 baptised 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 baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

*For the Gospel of the Lord.*

### **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

#### **Prayers of the People**

Heavenly Father, we are wandering the wilderness, in loneliness and uncertainty. Help us to be a voice that cries out instead of staying silent; show us how to prepare the way for the coming of your Son.

Lend your voice to the voiceless: give courage to those who are abused in every sense of the term, that the world might hear their story and surround them with strength and support. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Lend your voice to the voiceless: hear the inquiry of those seeking to know and follow you, and may they not be drowned out by the inane and selfish prattle of the Enemy and his servants. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Lend your voice to the voiceless: let those who hear your word speak it in your churches and to the wider world without hindrance; let those who find your light become beacons to those in darkness. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Lend your voice to the voiceless: hear the injustice of the world, that makes tyrants of the rich and leaves the poor in despair. Where there is disparity of wealth and standards of living, may our voices be peace to the destitute and discomfort for the greedy. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Lend your voice to the voiceless: let us advocate for peace in a world whose economy is grounded in war. Raise the cry to beat swords into ploughshares, and

urge the bloodthirsty to repent of their cruelty. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Lend your voice to the voiceless: help us to care for the sick in body, mind or spirit. Help us to heed their pain, and to abide with them in their suffering. We remember those who have asked for our prayers: *Maryann Leonard, Jonathan and Limor Rose, Jeanne Jones, Bill Edge, Sharon and John Simpson, Anni Grimwade, Madeline Allen, Elaine Haddock, Belinda Shannon, Jim Chatz, Barry and Val Watts, Gwen Bushell, Debbie Chilcott, Beryl and Geoff Kirby, Fiona Mctier, David Valentine, Peg and Ken Raeburn, Bishop John Parkes, Edie Simpson, Bruce Seaman, Thomas De Sousa, Mary Cassar, Vince Fazio, and Adeline Bickley.* Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Lend your voice to the voiceless: by our prayers, guide those who have departed this life to join you and rise with your Son in glory. We remember those recently gone to their rest...and those whose year's mind occurs at this time: *Clarence Parkinson, William Isbister, Grace Patterson, Harry Lazarus, Jane Rasmussen, Robert Freestone, Karen Guinelly, Kenneth Hammond, and Silvie Knight.* Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers. **Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Notices**

### **Christmas Service Times**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December: 6pm Carols in the Carpark, St Matthew's Broadford

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December: 7:30pm Lessons and Carols, Christ Church Kilmore

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December: 5pm Family Nativity Service, Christ Church Kilmore

11pm Midnight Mass, St Matthew's Broadford

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December: 9am Parish Christmas Day Mass, Christ Church Kilmore

### **Bible Study – Advent**

We will be having an Advent Bible Study on Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be at 7.30pm at Christ Church Kilmore (while we take a holiday break from Jeremiah). We will be looking at the beginning of Luke's gospel, and the events leading up to the Birth of Jesus. All are welcome.

## **Parish AGM and Annual Reports**

We will be holding our AGM on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm, in lieu of Parish Council. Reports will be circulated by email beforehand, please read these in case you have any questions you wish to raise at the meeting.

## **Carols in the Carpark, Broadford**

The Broadford Ecumenical Committee is organising community carols in the carpark between St Matthew's and Gavan Hall. The carol service will be Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, starting from 6pm. BYO picnic with blanket or folding chairs as necessary, while tea and coffee will be provided from Gavan Hall. All are welcome.

## **Love in Action**

Families we serve are feeling the stress of the season to provide for their kids at Christmas. If you would like to sponsor a child for Christmas whereby you are prepared to buy a new and decent gift, please contact Barbara Radford (0412 287 306). Love in Action needs to have these gifts delivered by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Alternatively, you can provide a donation to the Love in Action bank account for the volunteers to purchase the gift. Christmas foods are also needed for hampers, including lollies, chocolates, tins of shortbread or biscuits, nuts, chips, Christmas serviettes, etc. Many thanks for your support.

**Direct Debit /EFT Offerings** – Account details: BENDIGO BANK – Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore,' BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921.  
Reference: Offertory. An EFTPOS machine is available at Kilmore.

### **This Week in the Parish:**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December:** 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** 2.30pm: Dianella RACF service  
5.30pm Parish AGM, Christ Church Kilmore

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** 10am: Mass, St Matthew's Broadford  
10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December:** 10.30am: Blue Cross RACF service  
10am-4pm: Op Shop Trading

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

**Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent 17<sup>th</sup> December: Isaiah 61:1-11; Ps 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28; John 1:6-8,19-28**

Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Morning Prayer
St Matthew's, Broadford	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration, Pyalong	11.00am	Holy Eucharist

**Weekly Scripture Readings**

	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Ps 95; 96	Ps 97; 98
	Isaiah 43:14-44:5	Isaiah 7:1-17
	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28	Mark 6:30-56
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Ps 99; 100	Ps 103
	Isaiah 44:6-23	Isaiah 7:18-8:4
	2 Thessalonians 1	Mark 7:1-23
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Ps 101; 102:1-11	Ps 102:12-28
<i>St Lucy</i>	Isaiah 44:24-45:8	Isaiah 8:5-9:1
	2 Thessalonians 2	Mark 7:24-37
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Ps 108; 109:20-30	Ps 119:105-128
<i>St John of the Cross</i>	Isaiah 45:9-25	Isaiah 9:2-17
	2 Thessalonians 3	Mark 8:1-13
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Ps 104:1-25	Ps 104:26-37
	Isaiah 46:1-47:4	Isaiah 9:2-17
	Revelation 14:1-12	Mark 8:14-26

<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Ps 105:1-22	Ps 105:23-45
	Isaiah 48:1-13	Isaiah 10:12-32
	Revelation 14:13-20	Mark 8:27-9:1

### **Parish Contacts**

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**Email: [dkerr1307@gmail.com](mailto:dkerr1307@gmail.com)**

### **Parish Wardens:**

**Caroline Burge**, 20 Chrystobel Way, Kilmore, Mobile 0409 822 180

**Rebecca Jones**, 3 First Street, Broadford, Ph 5784 4057

**Julie Wallis**, 71 Main Rd, Tallarook, Ph 5792 2854

**Glenn McKenzie**, 13 Station Street, Pyalong, Mobile 0452420958

**Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanKilmore/>**

**or you can type in Anglican Parish of Kilmore Facebook into the search bar and it should come up. It's also on the link Services Online on the website.**

### **Thoughts for the Week**

One of the hardest things to do in this world is to tell a problematic person that they are problematic. To tell someone caught in a repetitive cycle of negative or intrusive thoughts or behaviours, that they are caught in that very cycle; when of course, they are too close to themselves to see the problems they cause. It's not a matter of a person's intellect, but their emotional intelligence. That is, their self-awareness, empathy and ability to read the proverbial room. It's as though the person is wearing blinkers in relation to the world around them. They are coddled by their own narrative of misery. The adage is true: misery is indeed comfortable. I speak from experience. Taking hold of one's life, breaking the chain of misery, is difficult because it's like a creature shedding its skin or shell. One is made vulnerable by divesting oneself of misery, difficulty, or reasons to justify one's present state. But that's just it, we try to justify our situation again and again, story upon story, excuse upon excuse; thinking that our tangled tale will elicit sympathy. The truth is quite the opposite: the more we entomb ourselves in justifications for our lack of responsibility, insight or awareness, the

less people will listen to us, let alone believe our story. The sad part is, other people don't believe us or sympathise with us, but the more we tell ourselves how inferior or pathetic we are, the more it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Depression is a horrible, debilitating condition; again, I speak from experience. It not only demotivates, but it immobilises. It keeps us in bed until 2pm, scrolling on our phone mindlessly, trawling Facebook messenger or Whatsapp desperately for some faint vestige of communication. Some excuse not to face reality, but rather perpetuate the misery. Depression keeps us sitting in a house that looks like a bomb went off: dishes piled up in the sink, empty bottles here and there, carpet crunching with debris under every step upon it. But with every extended episode of depression, there is, unfailingly, a glimmer of lucidity. A person pops into our head, to call them for help when no one else seems to care. A moment of energy that causes us to load the washing machine or plug in the vacuum cleaner. Misery is breakable. One just has to take hold of those little lucid moments, and use them to make just one major, productive decision. The result is utterly transformative, and shows misery for what it really is.