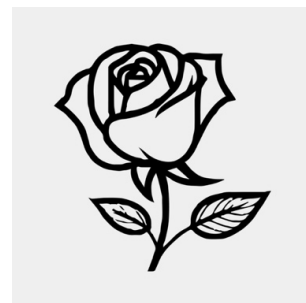




17th December 2023

Third Sunday of Advent



Hymns: 270 272 294 279

Sentence

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.
(*Philippians 4:4-5*)

The Collect

Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son: grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ, who is coming in power and glory to establish his rule of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ, our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with your and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 61, beginning at verse 1.
The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 126

R: We shall come home rejoicing to the Lord

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. **R...**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. **R...**

Second Reading

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, chapter 5, beginning at verse 12.

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 1, beginning at the sixth verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the People

Heavenly Father, at a time when we look towards the coming of your Son with great joy and anticipation, we uphold those who struggle to find any joy or meaning in the season, or in their life in general.

For those who walk in the darkness of depression and anxiety, weighed down by intrusive thoughts and narratives of self-deprecation. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For those in financial jeopardy, who have to make difficult decisions about how to feed, house and protect their family. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For those grappling with questions of purpose, identity and faith, who are at risk from spiritual attack and the influences of secular doctrine. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For those in ministry who are overworked and burnt out, such that they have lost sight of the joy in welcoming the Christ child into the world. Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

For children and young people who are ignored at home, and who do not know the love, acceptance and stability that is their basic human right. Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

For the elderly, frail and housebound, and those who find this time of year to be one of sadness, loneliness or uncertainty. Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

For the sick and suffering, and 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.**

For those we have known and loved who have died; for those recently gone to their rest...and those whose year's mind occurs at this time: *Emmy Marschall, Andrew Bulman, William Potts, Jeffrey Morgan, Robert Pratt, Gladys Martin, Elsie Chuter, Dianne Humm, Roy Sobey, William Mandel, Neville Payne, Ian Poulter, Shirley Perkins, Kevin Elson, McGregor Kean, Edie Pattinson and Rick Calliste.* 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 22nd December: 6pm Carols in the Carpark, St Matthew's Broadford

Saturday 23rd December: 7:30pm Lessons and Carols, Christ Church Kilmore

Sunday 24th December: 5pm Family Nativity Service, Christ Church Kilmore

11pm Midnight Mass, St Matthew's Broadford

Monday 25th December: 9am Parish Christmas Day Mass, Christ Church Kilmore

PLEASE NOTE: There will be normal Sunday services next week before Christmas Eve services in the evening.

Bible Study – Advent

We will be having our last Advent Bible Study on Tuesday December 19th. 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

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM. As a parish, we are looking pretty healthy. Anyone who did not get a copy of the end of year reports that would like them, please see Fr. David. Joy Letch from Christ Church has been elected to Parish Council, replacing the retiring Norman Rose, for whose commitment over the years we are most thankful.

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 22nd 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

Hampers are being distributed to those in need in our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed goods to this wonderful and much needed initiative.

Notice of Annual Leave

Fr. David will be away on leave from the 8th to the 25th of January 2024. Services will be lay-led during this time, and any issues, please refer to the Wardens of members of parish council.

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 18th December:** 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading
- Tuesday 19th December:** 7.30pm Bible Study, Christ Church Kilmore
- Wednesday 20th December:** 2.30pm: Dianella RACF service
- Thursday 21st December:** 10am: Mass, St Matthew's Broadford
10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading
- Friday 22nd December:** 10.30am: Blue Cross RACF service
6pm Carols in the Carpark Broadford
- Saturday 23rd December:** 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading
7.30pm Lessons and Carols, Christ Church Kilmore

Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent 24th December: 2 Samuel 7:1-16; Song of Mary; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38		
Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthew's, Broadford	11.00am	Morning Prayer
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration, Pyalong	---	---

Weekly Scripture Readings

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 18th December	Ps 107:1-22	Ps 107:23-43
	Isaiah 22:1-14	Isaiah 49:14-26
	Revelation 19:11-21	Mark 11:12-26
Tuesday 19th December	Ps 110; 111	Ps 112; 113
	Isaiah 22:12-23:7	Isaiah 50
	Revelation 20:1-10	Mark 11:27-12:12
Wednesday 20th December	Ps 114; 115	Ps 116; 117
	Isaiah 23:8-18	Isaiah 51:1-10
	Revelation 20:11-21:8	Mark 12:13-27
Thursday 21st December	Ps 34	92
<i>St Thomas</i>	Job 42:1-6	2 Samuel 15:17-21
	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 11:1-16
Friday 22nd December	Ps 118:1-18	Ps 118:19-29; 120
	Isaiah 24:21-25:9	Isaiah 52:1-12
	Revelation 21:22-22:5	Mark 12:41-13:13

Saturday 23rd December	Ps 124; 125; 126	Ps 127; 128; 129
	Isaiah 26:1-19	Isaiah 52:13-53:12
	Revelation 22:6-13	Mark 13:14-37

Parish Contacts

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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

Is 'Die Hard' with Bruce Willis a Christmas movie? Can any movie be counted as a Christmas movie? Amidst all the busyness of the Christmas season, it's not only important to make time for quiet and relaxation, but it's also useful to take note of the things that you do around Christmas to sort of let loose. What do you watch? What food do you eat? Who do you prefer to spend it with? Do you prefer to buy or receive gifts? Experts have said that we learn best through the medium of play. On the one hand there are quantifiable rules and boundaries (or in the case of Christmas, traditions), but on the other, one tends to be the most independently creative when faced with these boundaries. The way we spend our leisure time at Christmas can tell us a lot about what we actually need to function during the year. In a way, Christmas is leisure overload. But if one were to capture a snapshot or sample of that overload and see what patterns or tropes emerge, it could help one better understand the patterns of leisure required for optimal performance. We all need a baseline level of stress to function; the stress of duty or responsibility. The thing that gets us up in the morning. It can also be the thing that keeps us up a night, or exhausts us to the

point of collapse at 5pm. But small bursts of 'Christmas' during one's working day or week could actually be beneficial to our stress levels. So make note of all the things that really give you comfort in the Christmas season, so that when you're struggling during the year, you can look at injecting smaller portions of those comforts into your schedule. Just about anything could be a 'Christmas' movie....