

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

# 3rd Sunday of Advent

# Holy Trinity Cuckfield

*You are very welcome  
to our worship!*



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## Reflection by The Rev'd Canon David Tickner

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent in the Christian liturgical calendar. The celebration of Gaudete Sunday originated in the early Church as a way to provide encouragement during the long season of Advent, which was traditionally a time of fasting and penance. By the third Sunday, the faithful were given a moment to rejoice in the nearness of Christ's birth. The name "Gaudete" comes from the Latin word for "rejoice," derived from the entrance antiphon of the Mass for that day: "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). This is taken from Philippians 4:4-5. It marks a shift from the more sombre, penitential tone of Advent to one of joy and anticipation as Christmas draws near. The focus is on the joy of the promised Messiah and the nearness of His coming. The readings for the day often emphasise rejoicing and hope. The colour rose (a lighter version of Advent's purple) is used for the vestments and decorations, symbolising joy and hope. The Advent wreath's third candle, traditionally rose-coloured, is lit to symbolise this joy.

## Worship this Sunday...

### Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again, we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3.14-end; Philippians 4.4-7  
Luke 3.7-18

<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (CW)</b>	Reader	Graham Johnson
<b>9.45 am</b>	<b>Parish Communion with Sundays Cool *</b>	Reader 1	Mark Parker
Pr Hymn	45 O come O come, Emmanuel (VENI EMMANUEL)	Reader 2	Ted Parker
Setting	Addington Service (Shephard)	Intercessor	Anthony Lawrence
Gr Hymn	742 O for a thousand tongues (RICHMOND)		
Of Hymn	39 Hills of the North (LITTLE CONARD)		
Anthem	How Beautiful are the Feet (Handel)		
Cm Hymn	594 Be still my soul (FINLANDIA)		
Fn Hymn	327 Awake, Awake fling off the night (DEUS TUORUM MILITUM)		

**6.00 pm** Said Evensong Isaiah 35; Luke 1.57-66

\* Also live streamed on zoom - click the blue button on the church homepage

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**First Reading**

Zephaniah 3.14-end

*Sing, daughter of Jerusalem; the Lord will restore your fortunes*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

**Second Reading**

Philippians 4.4-7

*Rejoice in the Lord always; do not be anxious about anything*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel**

Luke 3.7-18

*John proclaims the Messiah, the thong of whose sandals he is not worthy to untie*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**This Week....**

16/12 Mon	11.30 am	Goldbridge Care Home, Holy Communion	Goldbridge Care Home
	7.00 pm	Sussex Army Cadets Carol Service	Church
18/12 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Jerimiah 23.5-8
		followed by coffee and cake	Matthew 1.18-24
	9.00 pm	Candlelit Sung Compline for Advent	Church
19/12 Thu	9.00 am	Iona /Celtic Communion	Judges 13.7-7, 24-end
			Luke 1.5-25
	7.30 pm	Home Group (in person)	
20/12 Fri	9.30 am	HT Primary - Christingle Service	Church
	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church

## Next Sunday...

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5.2-5a  
Hebrews 10.5-10  
Luke 1.39-45  
Roger Edmonston

**8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)**

Readers

**9.45 am Parish Communion \***

Pr Hymn 46 On Jordans Bank (WINCHESTER NEW)  
Setting Addington Service (Shephard)  
Gr Hymn 57 Ye Servants of the Lord (NARENZA)  
Of Hymn 32 Come thou redeemer (PUER NOBIS)  
Anthem The Angel Gabriel - Traditional  
Cm Hymn 58 A Great and Mighty Wonder (ES IST EIN ROS)  
Fn Hymn 41 Lo he comes with clouds (HELMSLSY)

Reader 1  
Reader 2  
Intercessor

Evelyn Stenning  
Ian Walden  
Eileen Caple

**6.00 pm Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols\***

*\* Also live streamed on zoom - click the blue button on the church home page.*

## Notices and Parish News...

A **HUGE THANKYOU** to everyone who worked so hard to make the Christmas Tree Festival such a great success.

A **Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Pam Sagar** will take place at Holy Trinity on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 at 3pm.

**Help Us Build Our Social Media Presence!** - We're working hard to enhance our social media, and we need your support. If you're on Facebook, visit the Holy Trinity Cuckfield page. You'll find church services and events—please don't just like them, share them! This helps spread the word about our church. You can also RSVP to events and invite others. If you have any content, like photos or updates, send them to [claire@juniperbloom.co.uk](mailto:claire@juniperbloom.co.uk) (Claire is assisting Fr Daniel with Social Media Marketing). Or, consider becoming a Facebook administrator yourself to help us further. You could also follow Fr. Daniel on Twitter: @CuckfieldCleric!

**Cuckfield Local Market** - Holy Trinity Cuckfield monthly makers and food market returns in **2025** from 9.30-12.30 providing locally sourced, sustainable goods. Support local artisans and embrace environmental stewardship with us. The church will be serving tea, coffee and soft drinks, please let Jane know if you can assist.

**Sunday's Cool** - Returns in 2025, if you can help at any of those sessions, or our child wants to come along, please let Hilary know by emailing [inspirefm@holytrinitycuckfield.org](mailto:inspirefm@holytrinitycuckfield.org). We really want to demonstrate how committed we are to children and young families in this parish.

## Prayers...

***Those in immediate need.***

Becky Parker, James Watson, Mark Herring, Ralph Colbran

***Those in long term need.***

Georgia, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Eileen Knight, Jim Knight, Liz Graydon, Peter Graydon, Eileen MacDougall, George Snashall, Karen Leese, and Yvonne Godsmark

***Those in care homes.***

Mary Watts, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card, Keith Card, Tina Owens

***The recently departed and those who mourn.***

Rosemary Mulcare

***Those whose year's mind falls at this time.*** 15<sup>th</sup> Bill Ridley, 16<sup>th</sup> Alison Quick, Jack Richard Moulding 2005, Lauren Anne Silverlock 2012 Christopher Bartlett 2017, Anthony Gerald Marsden 2020, 17<sup>th</sup> Michelle Frenzell, Diana Allison 1993, Diane Mary Giles 2021, 18<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Beard, Daisy Kent 1993 19<sup>th</sup> Jack Fleming, 20<sup>th</sup> Gorge Rowe, Helen Hussey 1997, Irene Sayers 2009, 21<sup>st</sup> John Handcock

## Praying through the week...

**Mon Dec 16<sup>th</sup>** - We look to International Migrants Day, 18<sup>th</sup> Dec and pray for the urgent need for safe migration governance rooted in solidarity, partnership, and respect for human rights. People on the move are powerful drivers for development in both their origin and destination countries, as workers, students, entrepreneurs, family members, artists, and much more. Migrants often maintain strong connections to their home countries while embracing their new communities, where they bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and skill. We pray that we may remember with both pride and humility the migratory history of our lands. As we remember the holy couple Mary and Joseph travelling and searching for a safe place to stay, we pray for all migrants, particularly refugees and asylum seekers seeking safety, welcome and an opportunity to work and be part of a community. We pray for the people of Paynesfield, for their health and well-being, that they may feel drawn to acts of friendship and kindness this week.

**Tue Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** - As we remember our Posada figures and the wearisome journey made by Mary and Joseph on that first Christmas, we pray for all who are homeless at this time. We pray for organisations, charities and volunteers working to support people who have no proper home. We pray locally for people in sheltered accommodation and ask that they may sense the joy and richness of God's creation and have a sense of God in whatever situation they find themselves in.

**Wed Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** - We pray for those who live in care homes or nursing homes. We pray for those who work there, for the support necessary to maintain a high standard of care and comfortable, safe, stimulating environment. We pray for a society that sees and acknowledges elderly people, that embraces their skills, memories and experience. We pray that they experience the joy of Christmas. Locally we pray for the people of Pickwell Lane, that they may feel the safety and generosity of a kind neighbourhood.

**Thu Dec 19<sup>th</sup>** - We pray for all who work in shops, restaurants, hotels, clubs, pubs and other places that get extremely busy at this time of year. We pray for those troubled by the excess of food, alcohol, buying at this time of year. We pray for those who feel compromised by unrealistic expectations; for those who find themselves in debt; for those not included in social gatherings. We pray for those struggling to make ends meet. Locally we pray for the people of Polestub Lane and for the ways in which they help to create a community that feels safe, confident and supportive.

**Fri Dec 20<sup>th</sup>** - Looking back to Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we remember all living with disabilities of one kind or another, both visible and not. We pray for their families and the additional strain on so many aspects of everyday living for all concerned. We pray that we may learn to build communities that are empowering, safe, and keen to embrace skills and offer support to all. Locally we pray for all who work at Princess Royal Hospital; We pray that they may feel the comfort and presence of God in all they do and give thanks for the ways in which they enrich the community and environment around them.

**Sat Dec 21<sup>st</sup>** - As our church musicians prepare for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, we pray for them and for all church musicians. May their music this Christmas season bring joy and wonder, lifting hearts to celebrate the coming of God to earth in the Christ Child, inspiring all who hear it with the light and love of the Saviour's birth. Locally we pray for the people of Rosemary Close, that they may sense the beauty and bounty of God's creation.

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