

Service for Week 1st – 7th Dec . 2025

Advent 2 By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Loving God, we praise you for this



season of Advent, this time for rejoicing and celebration, but also a time of reflection.

Open our eyes to

the breath of your love, the wonder of your mercy, and the extent of your goodness.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory

for ever and ever.

Amen

Bible Reading Matt 3:1-12

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

In those days John the Baptist came,
preaching in the Desert of Judea
and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom
of heaven is near." This is he who was
spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:
"A voice of one calling in the desert,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight paths for him."

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

**Holy words, Holy wisdom,
Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Going forwards from Sunday into the



second week of Advent; as we start to prepare for Christmas we think again about John the Baptist. How he prepared the people for the time that Jesus would start his ministry.

Many people were flocking out to the desert location by the side of the river Jordan to see this strange prophet called John the Baptist. The people had heard how he lived out in the desert dressed in a cloak made of rough camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist and he ate locusts and wild honey. They came to hear him preach and to be baptized—immersed in water, to be forgiven for their sins and dedicated to God in the waters of the Jordan.

Some while ago King Charles when he was Prince Charles and Camilla visited the site on the Jordan river where John was thought to baptize. Charles was given dozens of bottles of water to be used for the christenings of future royal babies as royal babies have been baptized with this water in past years.

John the Baptist criticizes the religious leaders for hurrying to be baptized and thinking that because they are children of Abraham, that they have a right to be baptized. John tells them that they must also change the way they have been living in order to be accepted by God.

It is not enough, John says, to come and be baptized, you must

acknowledge your past mistakes and say that you regret things you may have said and done. To truly repent of your sins and change your lives.

There were those in the crowd that started to think -is this man the Christ, the Messiah the one we have been waiting for? But John puts them straight and tells them "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

John had spent his life preparing for the coming of Jesus –and it was now that lifetime of preparation was going to come to fruition – at last Jesus the Messiah was coming.

Advent is a time preparation when we can re-evaluate our lives. To look at our past with honesty and if there are things there that we are not proud of, then to bring those things to Jesus. To repent and ask for God's forgiveness. If we can do that then can go towards the New Year celebrating not only the birth of Christ but a new beginning in our relationship with God. **Amen**

Closing Prayer

Come into my heart, blessed Jesus, I need Thee thro' life's dreary way; The burden of sin is so heavy, come into my heart to stay.

Amen.

Prayer from the hymn 'Come into my heart Lord Jesus'