

ANGLICAN PARISH OF MILFORD
St Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford

Sunday 11th December 2016

Third Sunday in Advent

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Sentence:

Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of our Lord's favour. Isaiah 61: 1-2

Collect:

Eternal God, you sent us 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 you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

TODAY

8.00 am – Advent Liturgy
9.30 am – Advent Liturgy

Introit 597 God, whose almighty word
Gradual 505 His eyes will guide my footsteps
Offertory 384 My song is love unknown
Dismissal 55 O for a thousand tongues to sing

**Readings for today Sunday 11th December
Advent 3**

1st Reading – Isaiah 35: 1-10

Epistle – James 5: 7-10

Gospel – Matthew 11: 2-11

Readers 8.00 am – Rosemary Maire and Jack Weir

Readers 9.30 am – Maureen Christensen and Gaylene Hotchkiss

Isaiah 35: 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5: 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11: 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

We remember in our prayers today – Calvin, Louie (Hilary’s grandson) Briar, Robyn, Bob and Gabrielle, Simon, Julieanne, and Carol. And we remember parishioners and residents in Katui Street, Midway Avenue, Parr Terrace, Rae Road.

This Week

Tuesday 13	Selwyn Centre 9.30 am – 11.30 am our Christmas lunch and our final gathering for the year. We will resume Tuesday 7 th February
Wednesday 14	10.00 am Holy Communion followed by morning tea.
Thursday 15	10.00 am Mainly Music. 6pm working Bee.
Sunday 18	One service today 9.30am. Nine lessons and carols. Followed by shared morning tea.

WORKING BEE – Christmas working Bee this Thursday 15th December starting at 6pm with a meal of fish and chips.
All the more the merrier!!

Christmas Toy Appeal for Anglican Trust For Women and Children – Please bring children's toys. Next Sunday 18th is the last day for collection. Do not wrap toys however Christmas paper would be gratefully accepted.

Nine Lessons in Carols will be held on Sunday 18th December
There will be only **ONE** service at 9.30am followed by a shared morning tea.