

ANGLICAN PARISH OF MILFORD
St Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford
Third Sunday in Advent 17th December



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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, the day of vengeance of our God. 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

8.00am - Advent Liturgy
9.30am - Advent Liturgy

Introit 376 Songs of thankfulness & praise
Gradual 344 Angels from the realms of glory
Offertory 343 As with gladness men of old
Dismissal 340 Joy to the world

Readings for today Sunday 17th December

1st Reading – Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Epistle – 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel – John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Readers 8.00am – To be advised

Readers 9.30am – Karen Stubbs and Marion Chiswell

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

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.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

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.

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

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

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.

We remember in our prayers today – John, Campbell, Logan, Barbara, Ken, Doreen, Kelvin, Louie, Briar, Robyn, Bob and Gabrielle, Simon, Carol, Lynette, Gail, and residents and parishioners in Commodore Parry Road, Craig Road, Dallinghoe Crescent, Dodson Avenue.

Readings for next Sunday 24th December

1st Reading – 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Epistle – Romans 16:25-27

Gospel – Luke 1: 26-38

Readers 8.00am – To be advised

Readers 9.30am – Marion Chiswell and Liz Powell

This Week

Wednesday 20th	10.00 am Holy Communion followed by morning tea. There will be <u>NO</u> Wednesday service on December 27 th . And <u>NO</u> Wednesday service in January. Resuming Wednesday 7 th February.
Christmas Eve Sunday 24th	
9.30 am	One service at 9.30am. Nine lessons and Carols.
5.00 pm	Christingle - Children and Family Service
11.00 pm (please note change of time this year)	Midnight Service – Candles, Carols & Holy Communion.
Christmas Day Monday 25th	
8.00 am	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31st	<u>ONE</u> Service 9.30 am
Sunday 7th January	<u>ONE</u> Service 9.30 am
Mainly Music	Resumes Thursday 8 th February
Selwyn Centre	Resumes Tuesday 13 th February
Confirmation Service	Bishop Ross Sunday May 20 th 2018