

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF MILFORD**  
**St Paul's-by-the-Sea - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**



**Vicar**            The Rev'd Grant Robertson  
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**Sentence** - Do not fear. 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. Zepaniah 3: 16-17

**Collect** - Almighty God, you sent your Son into the world where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff and evil clings even to what is good: let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption, so that, purified, we may wait eagerly for him whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

**8.00am - 9.30am** – Advent Liturgy

**Introit**            335 Come, O long expected Jesus  
**Gradual**         38 God, we praise you! God, we bless you!  
**Offertory**        436 Hark! a trumpet call is sounding  
**Dismissal**       338 O come, O come, Emanuel

**Readings for today Sunday 16th December**  
**Advent Three**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** - Zephaniah 3: 14-20

**Epistle** - Philemon 4: 4-7

**Gospel** - Luke 3: 7-18

**Readers** - 8.00am - To be advised

**Zephaniah 3: 14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments 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.

**Philemon 4: 4-7**

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my  
God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith  
toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may

become effective when you perceive all the good that we<sup>f</sup> may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

### **Luke 3: 7-18**

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 ax 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.

We remember in our prayers – Pat, Ian, Hazel, Robert, Shelley, Cynthia, Margaret, Hilda, John, Logan, Kelvin, Louie, Carol, Bob and Gabriel, Lynette and Gail. And residents and parishioners in

Newport Place, Nile Road, Pax Avenue, Quebec Road, Raines Road.

## **Bible Study Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December - PURE JOY**

James and perseverance.

The granular reality of day to day living.

[Based on James 1:2-5; 22-25]

### **THIS WEEK**

Tuesday 18th	No Selwyn Centre resumes Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2019.
Wednesday 19th	10.00am Holy Communion service. Followed by morning tea. This will be the final for the year. Resumes Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2019.
Thursday 20th	No Mainly Music resumes Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2019.
<b>Sunday 21st</b>	Nine Lessons and Carols (no communion)

**Thank you** - to those who attended the working bee on Thursday night. We worked hard for 3 hours and were rewarded with a lovely meal of fish and chips. Well done.

## **St Paul's by the Sea Anglican Church Milford Christmas Services**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

9.30am - Nine Lessons and Carols

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve**

5.00 pm - Family and Children Christingle Service

11.00 pm - Carols, Candles, and Communion

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day**

8.00 am - Carols and Holy Communion

9.30 am - Carols and Holy Communion