

**St Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford**  
**Sunday 15th December 2024**



**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. Zephaniah 3: 16-17

**Collect** - Almighty God, you sent your Son into a 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.

<b>Introit</b>	335 Come, O long expected Jesus
<b>Gradual</b>	38 We praise you! God, we bless you!
<b>Offertory</b>	436 Hark, a trumpet call is sounding
<b>Closing</b>	338 O come, O come Emmanuel

**8.00am** - Advent Liturgy

**9.30am** - Advent Liturgy

**Readings for today Sunday 15th December**

First Reading - Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Epistle - Philippians 4: 4-7

Gospel - Luke 3: 7-18

Readers - 8.00am - To be advised

Readers - 9.30am - Sarah and Edward

### **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.

### **Philippians 4: 4-7**

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.

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

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and 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; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be 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 strap 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 - Patrick, Lorraine, Anne, Tomas, Donna, Julie, Megan, Dianne, Noeline, Gillian, Barrie, Lesley, Shobha, Pat, Hazel, Shelley, Cynthia, Logan, Kelvin, Margaret, Jeff, and Bryce. Residents and parishioners in Inga Road, Keldale Place, Kitchener Road, Marsh Avenue, Milford Park Road, Napoleon Avenue,

## **NEXT WEEK**

Sunday 22nd December	<b>No</b> 8am service today  9.30am Nine lessons and Carol Service.
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## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES - COME & JOIN US**



**NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER**  
9.30am (**NO** 8am service this day)

**CHRISTMAS EVE - Tuesday 24th DECEMBER**  
5.00pm Christingle Children &  
Family Service (with communion).  
11.00pm  
Candles, Carols & Communion

**CHRISTMAS DAY – Wednesday 25th DECEMBER**  
8.00am - 9.30am Carols & Holy Communion

**Vicar Rev'd Grant Robertson**

### **INFORMATION FOR YOUR DIARIES**

**Sunday 8am Service** - there will be **no** 8am service during January 2025. Services will resume Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2025.

**Wednesday Mid-week Communion service** - our last service for the year will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. First service for 2025 will be Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**Selwyn Centre** - will meet for the last time for this year on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. We will resume on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**Mainly Music** - final for the year will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Mainly Music will resume on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025.