

St John the Evangelist

Scottish Episcopal Church, Jedburgh
A community of welcome in the Borders

8 December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent



10.00 COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT

Led by: Paul Beck

Hymn 3

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Prayer at the Advent wreath (yellow leaflet)

PREPARATION

(page 1, blue service book)

Collect

Stir up our hearts, Lord, to prepare the way of your only-begotten Son: that, in his coming, we might serve you with our hearts made pure; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

(page 4, blue service book)

1st Reading: Malachi 3:1 – 4 *(p.926, pew Bible)*

Canticle Benedictus (Luke 1:68 – 79)
Blessed be the Lord, who sets his people free

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:3 – 11 *(p.210, pew Bible)*

Hymn **Brother, sister, let me serve you**

- 1 Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with
you;
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey
through.
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

Richard A M Gillard

Gospel: Luke 3:1 – 6

Sermon, Creed, Intercessions, Peace *(pages 4 – 6)*

Hymn 408 Love divine, all loves excelling

THANKSGIVING PRAYER AND COMMUNION

(turn to the blue RS leaflet, page 2)

At Communion: *there is hand gel on the way to the altar rail for those who wish to handle the chalice themselves.
Please do not intinct (dip your wafer in the wine).*

Prayer after
Communion ***Creator of heaven and earth, we thank you for these holy mysteries, which bring us now a share in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen***

Hymn 15

The Lord will come and not be slow

Dismissal

We pray especially today for
Grace Lancaster and Linda Grant

Dear Friends and People of God,

As quoted from Isaiah's prophecy in today's Gospel reading: *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'*

What a promise, what assurance, great cause for rejoicing. But what a different tone in the words of the prophecy of our Old Testament reading from the prophet Malachi: *'The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. Who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.'*

Searching, challenging, foreseeing judgment and change
Promise and assurance - judgement and change. That is exactly what Advent presents to us.

And our Gospel reading underscores it: We cannot get to the baby Jesus of Christmas without checkpoint John. And he asks us to repent. To get our lives in order and to get our common life ordered for the wellbeing of all.

Repentance, in Greek, metanoia, means to change our whole worldview. Change, because, my friends, we are so often less than what and who God intends us to be.

This change, this transformation, is about embracing the one whose name is salvation, Jesus, the one who is 'God

saves' and 'God with us'. And as we embrace Him, Jesus, we, too are embraced - embraced with love and change and growth and the transformation of the lives we are already living, from glory into glory.

'And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.'

With my love and prayers: Andi

COMING UP:

- **Celebrations, Saints and Surprises**, Abbey Consort at Kelso Old Parish Church this afternoon at 3.00pm.
- **Jedburgh Christmas Tree Festival** continues at the Parish Church, open 10am – 4pm daily, Thursdays 4pm – 8pm.
- **Advent Study Group** continues with session 3 (Gloria) on Thursday 12th December after midweek communion.
- **AGM** after Eucharist on Sunday 15th December.
- **Christmas Carol Service** at St. John's in conjunction with Jedburgh Rotary on Sunday 22nd December at 3.00pm.

Priest-in-Charge

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***Toilets** are available next door in St. John's Old School
at the end of the downstairs corridor.*

Our welcomers have the key to the front door.
