

The Church of St Francis
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
19th December 2021



Love



**'Love is like a candle shining
in a dark place.
As we light this candle we
celebrate the love we find in
Jesus Christ.'**

**The Church of St Francis
Heartsease**

FOR OUR PRAYERS

We pray for those who are in need of prayer at this time: Margaret & Martin; Eileen; Hayley; Ivan and Peter; Audrey; Sheila; Megan; Riley & his mum and family; David M; Alex and Amanda; Kathryn, Willow, & Edward; Lucy.

We continue to pray for Woodside House Care Home; Hebron House and all those who are managing long term issues including: Linda R; Gayle; Charlotte, Maegan & Carson; Tom; Rosemary; Cynthia & David; John and Jane; Rosie, and Pete; Shirley.

We remember those who have died in recent days, among them Grace Moore; Andrew Bartley; Barbara Miller; praying too for all who mourn the loss of a loved one or a friend, especially Jill.

**Heavenly Father
We ask your blessing upon us.
Hold the Heartsease Community,
and all the world,
in your arms of love.
Be with us.
Give us your strength,
peace, and healing grace.
Watch over us,
protect us from harm;
and keep in safety
all those who care for the sick
and attend to our needs,
in Jesus name we pray.
Amen**

COLLECTS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming
as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet
him when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen
Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of
your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs
of this present age, to see, with her,
our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



POST COMMUNION PRAYERS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things,
we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away
the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again
in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive
and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD OF GOD

You may notice that we do not always use all the readings in our Sunday service – we include them in the bulletin for you to reflect upon them throughout the forthcoming week.

MICAH 5: 2 - 5A

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought
forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the
strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name
of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure,
for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

PSALM 80: 1 – 8

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ♦
you that led Joseph like a flock;
- ² **Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, ♦
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.**
- ³ Stir up your mighty strength ♦
and come to our salvation.
- ⁴ **Turn us again, O God; ♦
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- ⁵ O Lord God of hosts, ♦
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

6 You feed them with the bread of tears;

◆
you give them abundance of tears to drink.

**7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, ◆
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

**8 Turn us again, O God of hosts; ◆
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen**

HEBREWS 10: 5 - 10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God”

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).’

When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

LUKE 1: 39 – 55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of

your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

And Mary said,
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’



HOME COMMUNION



If you live in the parish of St Francis and would like to receive the Sacrament in your home because you cannot get to church, please contact Revd Janet or Fr Tracy.

**SERVICES NEXT WEEK
ALL WELCOME**

Mon: Morning Prayer – 9am

Tues: Morning Prayer – 9am
Evening Prayer – 5pm

Weds: Morning Prayer – 9am
BCP Holy Communion – 11.30am
Evening Prayer - 5pm

Thurs: Morning Prayer – 9am

CHRISTMAS EVE

Midnight Mass – 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Simple Service of Holy Communion
10.30am

**BOXING DAY / CHRISTMAS 1
[The Feast of Stephen]**

Holy Communion – 10.30am



FORTHCOMING SERVICES



**WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS
NEXT WEEK...**

**LET IT GROW
EVERY WEDNESDAY
@ 9am – 11.30am**



**Weeding, Sowing, Planting,
&
10.15 am
Tea And Cake Break
LOTS OF FRESH VEG TO BE PICKED
COME AND GET IT!**

**THURSDAY MORNING
IS COFFEE MORNING
In the Church Lounge
10am – 12pm
EVERY WEEK!**



**ST FRANCIS CHURCH
HEARTSEASE
96 – 98 RIDER HAGGARD ROAD**

**IF YOU
OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW
IS IN NEED OF A HELPING
HAND WITH FOOD ETC.**

**● WE WILL DO OUR BEST
TO HELP
CALL OUR 24HR
ANSWERPHONE
01603 431259
[or call/text
07368 832294
Mon – Thur 10am – 5pm]**

ST FRANCIS CONTACT DETAILS:

Vicar: The Revd Janet Wyer
07368 832294
revdjanetwyer@outlook.com

Curate: The Revd Tracy Williams
07834 845623

Church Office: 01603 431259

Email: stfheartsease@outlook.com

Website: stfrancisheartsease.co.uk