



All Together Advent Worship

13th December 2020

The Perfect Promise

Preparing for Worship (stand if able)

The Lord himself will give you a sign:

the virgin will conceive

and give birth to a son,

and will call him Immanuel.

O Come, O come, Lord Jesus

Let your light shine in the world.

Save us from our sin.

The Collect for the 3rd Sunday in Advent

Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger John the Baptist to prepare the way for you, grant that the ministers and stewards of your truth may so make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Confessing our Sins

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

we have sinned against you and against our neighbour

in thought and word and deed,

through negligence, through weakness,

through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,

forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you

in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Declaring God's Forgiveness

O people, put your hope in the LORD. **His love endures forever.**
He is called Jesus, **because he will save his people from their sins**
(from Psalm 130 and Luke 1)

Song: Matthew's Begats

Understanding signs

Using the sheet of road signs, sort them into warning and action signs

Listen to the bible reading and answer these questions.

- Who was the Prophet?
- What was the sign?
- What did the sign mean for Israel and what does it mean for us?

Reading from the Bible (stand if able)

Isaiah 7:1-17

When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.

² Now the house of David was told, 'Aram has allied itself with Ephraim'; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

³ Then the Lord said to Isaiah, 'Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the

Lauderer's Field. ⁴ Say to him, "Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smouldering stubs of firewood – because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. ⁵ Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying, ⁶ 'Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it.' ⁷ Yet this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

"It will not take place,
it will not happen,

⁸ for the head of Aram is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is only Rezin.

Within sixty-five years

Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.

⁹ The head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son.

If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all."

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.'

¹² But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.'

¹³ Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. ¹⁷ The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah – he will bring the king of Assyria.'

Reflecting on God's Word

What was happening at the time Ahaz was King of Judah?

Why was God angry with king Ahaz?

Why do you think Ahaz would not listen to God?

What was Ahaz trusting in to save him? 2 Kings 16:5-9

Who should Ahaz have trusted?

Are there times you find it hard to trust God's promises?

Who/what are you tempted to trust instead?

Are there times you are tempted to disobey God so that you can be friends with popular, important or powerful people?

Are there times where you have felt threatened and instead of trusting God have tried to make up your own plan or strategy?

Jesus is the sign. He is God with Us.

How does Christ change the way we might react in difficult or dangerous situations?

God's heart is not for judgement, he is justice and so must judge people for sin. His heart is for mercy, and that's why Christ came. How does Christ change the way we can approach God?

Praying Together

Praying for our Church, our World, our community and for the sick

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done

On earth as is in heaven

Give us today our daily bread

Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

For the Kingdom,

the power

And the glory are yours

Now and forever. Amen.

SONG: The Christmas Song (20schemes)

Pronouncing God's Blessing

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary
and praise the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion,
he who is the Maker of heaven and earth.

Notices

After our service we can meet outside in groups of six only. Sadly, no mingling between groups.

Christmas Services

Doorstep Carols on Wednesday 16th from 6pm to 7pm (see next page)

Christmas Day Service of Holy Communion at 11am - PCC has agreed to have our first Communion since lockdown on Christmas morning. We have considered advice on being Covid safe. Please bring your own small glass and a plate in an airtight bag.

The Service on **Sunday 27th December** will ONLY be on YouTube at 11am.

Activities this week:

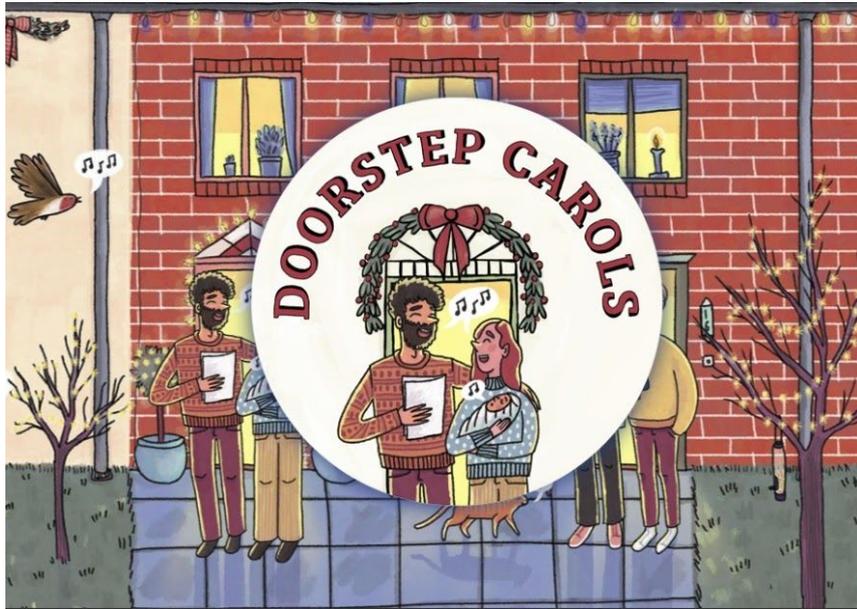
Advent Daily Prayer on YouTube. Visit the Holy Trinity West Brom YouTube channel from 6am Monday to Friday for an Advent bible reading and prayer.
<https://www.youtube.com/c/HolyTrinityWestBrom>

Advent Daily Bible readings for young people. Visit our church website or Facebook page to follow Advent readings for all ages.
<https://holytrinitywb.org/all-age-advent-bible-time/>

Zoom Small Group Bible Study and Fellowships. On Zoom (internet meeting) Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30pm. Ask Neil for an invitation.

Zoom Cake and Chat: Thursdays at 9am for up to two hours. Amanda can provide the internet link for access if you'd like to join in.

Doorstep Carols - Wednesday 16th December from 6pm to 7pm



BBC WM is joining other local BBC radio stations across the UK to serve communities this Christmas by playing Carols for one hour on Wednesday 16th December from 6pm.

Imagine everyone on your street, standing on their doorstep with a radio tuned in to BBC WM (95.6FM), with a copy of a carol sheet and singing together about the birth of Jesus.

For more information visit

<https://www.doorstepcarols.co.uk/is-your-area-involved-/west-midlands>

There are two ways you can join in.

Organise with your neighbours to sing on your doorsteps. Tell people what is happening. We have printed invites to pass around your neighbours. People can download and print the carol sheets from the website or, if you need to, we can print them in church.

If your neighbours don't want to do it, we'll be asking our neighbours along Mary Road, Burlington Road and Trinity Street to join us. People from other streets can stand in the church yard or along the pavements to join in.