



*And the peace of God,  
which surpasses all  
understanding, will guard  
your hearts and your  
minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4.7*

## Advent 3



**Sunday 15th December**

**Sung Eucharist 9.30 am**

**Nine Lessons and Carols 4.00pm**

Please don't take photos or videos during the service unless you have consent.  
Please be aware that this service may be live-streamed

### Collect for Today

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare  
the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### Post Communion Collect

We give you thanks, O Lord, for  
these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his  
face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for  
ever.

**Amen**

## 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.

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## 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 axe 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.

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## Psalm 146 v4 to the end

4 Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, ♦  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

We pray for all those who are sick in body, mind or spirit and by name:

Keith and Dorothy  
Josie and Pat  
Gina  
Jason and his Family  
Graham  
Arthur and Pauline  
Colin and Judy



Joshua Manning  
Penny and Mike  
Derek and Jo  
Sheila Vince  
Alan  
Carole  
Helen and her Family



### A Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true King of peace. In You alone is found freedom. Please free our world from conflict. Bring unity to troubled nations. Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart.

Dispel all darkness and evil. Protect the dignity of every human life. Replace hatred with Your love. Give wisdom to world leaders. Free them from selfish ambition. Eliminate all violence and war.

Pray for unity amongst nations. Pray for unity amongst all people. Pray for the most vulnerable. Pray for those suffering. Pray for the fearful. Pray for those most in need. Pray for us all.

Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us. Jesus, hear our prayers. Jesus, we trust in You! Amen.

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## **Important collections**

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are my brothers and sisters you did it to me.”

### 1. Babystuff Braintree

0 - 5 clothing and toiletries. See Susan Pedder for more details.

Toothbrushes and tooth paste go very quickly

### 2. The Wethersfield collection

Clothing for men and boys

**Please find boxes in the porch for donations**

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### **Holy Communion**

Wafers will be offered and the common cup. If you feel uncomfortable about sharing the chalice, receiving the bread alone is not a lesser action.

If you would like a Blessing only, please bring your service booklet to the Altar rail. During this time the choir will be singing. Please do wear a mask if that would make you feel more comfortable.

**Protocol** concerning the dipping of wafers in the wine: The recommendation from the Church is that we should not dip the wafer as a matter of hygiene. If this at all worries you, please do not hesitate to discuss it with a member of the Clergy.

# The Coming Week

[Morning Prayer](#) There will be Morning Prayer this week at **9.00am**

**Zoom** Meeting ID 884 8189 2518 Passcode cJ7500 **New**

Morning Prayer [in Church](#) Please refer to the [Newsletter](#)



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Other sites for personal prayer are available at:

- <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>
- [Pray-as-You-Go App](#) (free)
- [Northumbria Community Prayers](#)
- [Everyday Faith](#) is the new daily devotional app (free) from the Church of England

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Sunday December 22nd Sung Eucharist **11.00 am** Advent 4

Readings: Micah 5: 2 - 5a; Luke1: 39 - 55; The Magnificat

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God of Mission, Who alone brings  
growth to your Church, Send your Holy  
Spirit to give Vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our  
worship, And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers, In  
spiritual commitment to you, And in  
service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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## To Contact Clergy:



Revd. Rachel Prior [revrachelprior@outlook.com](mailto:revrachelprior@outlook.com)  
01376 325277 Day off: Monday



Revd. Roman Kukiewicz [revromankuk@gmail.com](mailto:revromankuk@gmail.com)  
01376 321479 Day off: Monday



Revd. Nikki Horsley [revnikkihorsley@gmail.com](mailto:revnikkihorsley@gmail.com)  
07810 280002 Day off: Saturday



Revd. David Sebley (URC)  
[minister@christchurchbraintree.org.uk](mailto:minister@christchurchbraintree.org.uk)  
01376 331983 Day off: Friday

## Children and Families Co-Ordinator



Deborah Ferris,  
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## Administration



Lisa Gregson The Three Churches Benefice Administrator  
(01376 330988) [admin@thethreechurches.co.uk](mailto:admin@thethreechurches.co.uk)  
(working pattern - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning)

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Please see the Website and Newsletter for more information