



Diocese of Ely

THREE RIVERS GROUP

Chippenham, Fordham, Isleham, Kennett, Snailwell

12 December – Advent 3

Welcome to church today. We are very glad you are joining us and warmly invite all who are baptized and who are communicant members of their own church to receive Holy Communion here.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we will distribute communion to people in their seats. Please take this notice sheet away with you at the end of service.

Advent Wreath Prayer (Advent 3)

Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. **Amen.**

Collect

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.

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah (3.14-end)

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements 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.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

A reading from Paul's letter to the 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.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Canticle: 'A Song of Deliverance'
(Isaiah 12.2-end)

All the earth, shout and sing for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One.

1 'Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid;

2 'For the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.'

3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

4 On that day you will say, 'Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;

5 'Make known his deeds among the nations, proclaim that his name is exalted.

6 'Sing God's praises, who has triumphed gloriously; let this be known in all the world.

7 'Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.'

All the earth, shout and sing for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke (3.7-18)

Glory to you O Lord

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Post Communion Prayer

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.**

TODAY

6pm Fordham – Carol Service

NEXT SUNDAY

19 December, Advent 4

9.30am Isleham – Eucharist

11am Fordham – Family Service

11am Chippenham – BCP Communion

3pm Kennett – Carol Service

6pm Snailwell – Carol Service

NOTICES

Compline at Snailwell

During the winter months, Compline will be said in church at Snailwell on Wednesdays at **6.30pm** rather than 7pm. (Virtual Compline continues on Zoom at 7pm.)

Mid-week Eucharist service

Due to other commitments before Christmas, this service is suspended until the new year.

Isleham Festival of Light at St Andrew's Church

The annual festival of lights, decorations and community Christmas trees will be open today **12 December** from **3-6pm**, with concluding Carol Concert at **4pm**.

Christmas Quiz

Don't miss your chance to join the **Isleham Cruise Quiz**. Email for details: stuart@haggettbrinsea.plus.com

Quiet Christmas

We will be holding a quiet Christmas service at **4pm** on **Saturday 18 December** at Fordham. It aims to provide space to help us begin to welcome the good news of Christmas in a gentle way; to come as we are, and not as we feel we should be or others might want us to be; and to reflect on what the nativity story might mean for us and for our world.

Forthcoming Services & Events for Advent & Christmas

Sunday 12 December, 4pm –
Festival of Light Carol Concert,
Isleham

Sunday 12 December, 6pm –
Traditional Carol Service, Fordham

Saturday 18 December, 4pm –
Quiet Christmas Service, Fordham

Sunday 19 December, 3pm –
Christmas Carol Service with
Newmarket Town Band, Kennett

Sunday 19 December, 6pm –
Christmas Carol Service, Snailwell

Christmas Eve

Friday 24 December

Crib Service, Fordham, **2pm**

Crib Service, Isleham, **4pm**

Christmas Eve Carol Service,
Chippenham, **6pm**

Midnight Mass, Fordham, **11.30pm**

Midnight Mass, Isleham, **11.30pm**

Christmas Day

Saturday 25 December

Christmas Day Eucharist,
Isleham, **9.30am**

Christmas Day Eucharist,
Snailwell, **9.30am**

Christmas Day Eucharist,
Chippenham, **11am**

Christmas Day Eucharist,
Fordham, **11am**

Sunday 26 December, 10 for 10.30am

– Ride & Stride Service with Carols,
Fordham

Intercessions:

Baptism:

Sunday 12 Dec 1.30pm, Isleham
Lily Watson

Funerals:

Wednesday 15 Dec, 11am - Isleham
Diane Beckett

Wednesday 22 Dec, 11.30am –
Fordham – Jack Lazell

Ashes Burial:

Tuesday 21 Dec, 2.30pm – Fordham
Pat Stannard

Three Rivers Ministry Team

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