

# Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

## Sunday 4th December 2022



### 2nd Sunday of Advent

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ  
comes again as judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God  
Amen



### Readings this week:

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalms 72: 1-7, [18-19]

Romans 15: 4-13

Matthew 3: 1-12

## Advent – Rejoice!

If we ever needed songs of hope it is now. As we look around, we see nothing but turmoil in our own country, strikes, distress because families can no longer cope with poverty they now find themselves in... the awfulness of the war in Ukraine and the acute suffering of their people... wars, hatred and greed affecting so many in our world today. Where is the compassion and humility in those who hold power, a willingness to admit 'we got things wrong'?

But we are urged to rejoice. What shall we rejoice in?

The answer lies in Advent – the coming of Christ. We can rejoice in Christ the King: we know how He died and rose again and we believe that he ascended to the Father for all eternity. So we come to rejoice, to look forward. We believe that God himself entered into our humanity – He became that tiny babe born in Bethlehem, whose birth we shall soon celebrate. That is an outstanding statement: it is vast, it is overwhelming.

We don't forget all that is around us, but we dare to look forward, dare to rejoice in all that He became and is.

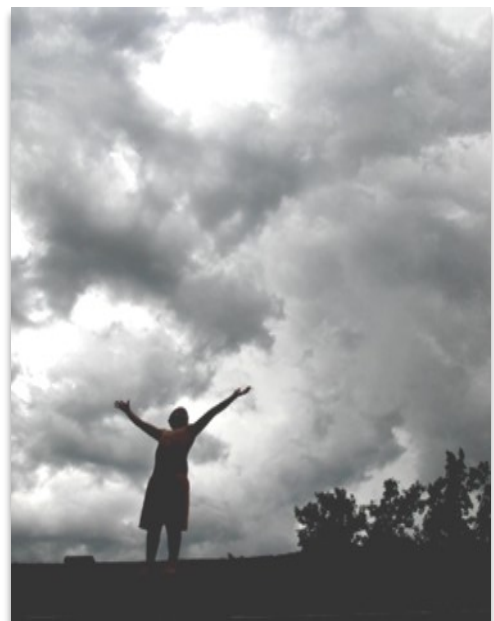
The prophet Isaiah in Chapter 61 speaks of being charged by the Lord 'to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, [...] to comfort all who mourn and provide for those who grieve' so that places long devastated' will be restored.

So we are called to give hope to the hopeless and distressed where we are, who we are, to help others look forward to this Christ Child soon to be celebrated. We rejoice in faith; we trust in Him despite all; we look, too, for the day when He returns.

That is what Advent is about, the first coming of Christ and the second coming that He promised. He said He would return. Advent is not a penitential time as Lent is, though for several hundred years from the sixth century monks did fast during Advent. We now enjoy Advent calendars with a chocolate for each day! And even more exotic and expensive ones can be bought!

Advent is really so much more than commercial calendars: it is looking forward to His birth, Christmas, and an awakening to the truth of the Second Coming as he promised. Jesus said 'I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come again to take you to myself.'

So let us take heed at this time and **REJOICE!**



Jackie Mahony (extracted from reflection at Zoom service on 27 November 2022). Image "Rejoice" by Oakley Originals via Creative Commons.

**Let us continue to support and strengthen each other**

- ◇ Daily, by saying The Lord's Prayer together, morning and evening
- ◇ Lighting a candle at home 10.00am on Sunday if we are unable to come to church

**Our Services:**

|  |  |                             |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022</b><br><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>  | <b>10:00am   Group Eucharist</b><br><b>Rev. Sue Hensley Halls, Diocesan AWA</b><br><b>Co-ordinator</b> | <b>Topcroft Church</b>      |
|  | <b>4:00pm   Family Praise</b>  | <b>Hempnall Church</b>      |
|  | <b>6:00pm   Advent Evening Service</b>   | <b>Via Zoom</b>             |
| <b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022</b><br><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> | <b>9:30am   Gift Service</b><br><b>Kate Daynes (Methodist Local Preacher)</b>                          | <b>Hempnall Church</b>      |
|  | <b>11:00am   Morning Service in the Celtic Tradition</b>   | <b>Morningthorpe Church</b> |
|  | <b>6:00pm   Advent Evening Service</b>   | <b>Via Zoom</b>             |

**This week we pray for:**

- ◇ In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life
- ◇ The Church, that she may be ready for the coming of Christ
- ◇ The leaders of the Church
- ◇ The nations, that they may be subject to the rule of God
- ◇ Those who are working for justice in the world
- ◇ The broken, that they may find God's healing
- ◇ In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs

**Food Bank**

Items for our Food Bank are still needed; we are very grateful to all who continue to contribute during this difficult time.

Our next collections will be on:

**Sunday 4TH DECEMBER 2022. Any items can be left at**

**Hempnall Church Office Mon-Thu, 9am-12:30pm.**

**Please phone before arrival - 01508 498157**

**URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS**

SUGAR

UHT FRUIT JUICE

INSTANT MASH

**WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF**

PASTA

CEREAL

SOUP

**WE REMEMBER:**

Martin, Molly, Ian

**Hempnall:** Lesley and family,

Phillip, Sophie

**Bedingham/Woodton:**

Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris, Barrie

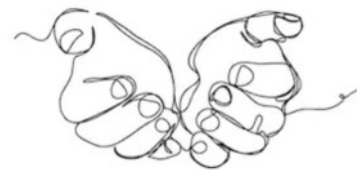
**Topcroft:** Gerald

**LONG TERM CARE:**

**Bedingham /Woodton:**

Dennis, Shirley, Jacob, Myrtle, Rudolph

**Fritton/Morningthorpe:** Beryl



**RECENTLY DIED:**

Mary Peck, Geoff Moulton

**Please ring us if you need:**

**Group Office: Mon-Thurs 9am-12.30pm**

**01508 498157**

**Email: [hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com](mailto:hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com)**

