

ARCH Group's aim: *"To show our love for God and You"*



Christmas Readings 2017

Next Week's Services: Sunday 31st December 2017

10.00 am

Harvington

Benefice Eucharist+

Collect for Christmas Eve

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Collect for Christmas Eve (2)

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Collect for Christmas Day

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Christmas Eve First Reading: *Isaiah 62:6-12*

Thus says the LORD:

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, ⁷and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. ⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; ⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. ¹⁰Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. ¹¹The LORD has proclaimed to **the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, ‘See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.’** ¹²**They shall be called, ‘The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD’; and you shall be called, ‘Sought Out’.**

Christmas Eve Psalm: *97:1-12*

- 1 The Lord is king: let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings lit up the world; the earth saw it and trembled.

Psalm 97:1-12 continued

- 5 The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declared his righteousness and all the peoples have seen his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in mere idols. Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced, because of your judgements, O Lord.
- 9 For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his faithful and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous and joy for the true of heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous and give thanks to his holy name.

Christmas Eve Second Reading: *Titus 3:4-7*

⁴When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Christmas Eve Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:8-20*

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to **them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’** ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴**‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’**

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the **shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem** and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has **made known to us.’** ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Christmas Day First Reading: *Isaiah 52:7-10*

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, **who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'**

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Christmas Day Psalm: *Psalms 98:1-10*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.
- 2 His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his salvation; his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- 5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music.
- 6 Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King.

Psalm 98:1-10 continued

- 8 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, the world and all that dwell upon it.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

Christmas Day Second Reading: *Hebrews 1:1-4*

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of **God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.** When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Christmas Day Gospel Reading: *John 1:1-14*

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. ⁴What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might

John 1:1-14 continued

believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we **have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**