



# Connection

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## The Second Sunday before Advent



### **Collect for the Second Sunday before Advent**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

### **Reading: Matthew 25. 14-30**

For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug

a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**This week, the Reflection has been provided by Bishop Michael Hooper and the Intercessions by Derek Potter. We thank them for taking the time to do so.**

### **Reflection for the Second Sunday before Advent by Bishop Michael Hooper**

In recent weeks the news has been dominated, apart from the coronavirus, with the American election.

This election campaign was extremely divisive and even now that Biden seems to have won President Trump has not conceded and the bitterness of the campaign is continuing. Nearly a year ago the election campaign here highlighted how divided this country is and Brexit was a key issue and, as in America, the country is split down the middle.

There will always be different opinions and ideas about what policies should be adopted and the political parties put forward different manifestos about the way forward. There will be heated exchanges because people are passionate about their beliefs and ideas but it is tragic when it leads to violence and people cannot engage any more in reasonable debate.

There can never be one Christian answer to all the problems and there are Christians in all the parties. Within the church itself there are differences and discussion about the way forward for the world and the church.

However there are two important actions in our worship which we must never forget. First at the beginning of the Eucharist we join in an act of confession expressing our lack of love for God. We bring to mind things we are sorry about in our relationships with one another. Also we should bring to mind our share in corporate sin, for example, greed, exploitation, discrimination and our lack of care for the environment and the world in which we live.

Secondly later in the service we exchange the peace by shaking hands, which we cannot do at the moment and so we wave to one another. When this was introduced some time ago based on a very ancient practice many thought it rather strange but it is expressing our love towards one another, so we can have different opinions and beliefs and argue but remain in love. This is so important as part of our life within the church community but also a clear message as to how we should behave in the world.

Robust discussion often leads to finding the best way forward as long as we remain in love and charity with one another.

This is our vocation as Christian people to follow Jesus whose command was “love one another as I have loved you”

+Michael



### **Intercessions**

Loving Father, as COVID lockdown once again closes our Churches for communal worship and limits us to isolated, individual prayer, help us to know that we are not alone in our fears and anxieties, but are part of the living body of Christ around Bredon Hill. We give you thanks for the ministry of Allison, Bishops Martin and Michael and the retired clergy and lay ministry teams who continue to serve us. At this time, we pray especially for all those involved in filling the second Bredon Hill Group post that it may happen as quickly as possible.

### **Lord help us to change and grow to be more like you in our commitment to your Church.**

Loving Father, we continue to pray for our politicians, civil servants and community leaders who are charged with the onerous responsibility of keeping us safe in the face of COVID and the devastating, disruptive effect that it is having on the economy and so many aspects of our lives. Help us to recognise that we are not all equal in our ability to cope with the limitations of lifestyle COVID demands, and that some may need special protection. We pray for other countries which are at different stages of exposure to the pandemic and are adapting other strategies to deal with it, and we remember especially the USA as the process of electing the next President exposes scars which go deep.

### **Lord help us to change and grow to be more like you in our commitment to your world.**

Loving Father, in our own communities we pray for those whose livelihoods or prospects are being damaged – for shops and businesses unable to open and for those who do not have the safety net of furlough, Government grants or savings to see them through uncertain times. We ask for your protection on our children and young people in their Schools, Colleges and University communities and all those charged with looking after them and keeping them safe and healthy.

### **Lord help us to change and grow to be more like you in our commitment to our community.**

Loving Father, now is not a good time to be old, sick or in need of medical treatment, so we pray for all those in the nursing and caring professions, those who work in Hospitals, Clinics, GP Surgeries, Nursing Homes, Dentists and Opticians whose jobs are made more difficult by the need for PPE, social distancing and unusual working conditions, as the days become colder and shorter. We give thanks for those capable of being nursed and cared for in their own homes and the family members and carers who undertake this work willingly and cheerfully.

### **Lord help us to change and grow to be more like you in our care for those in any kind of need or sickness.**

Loving Father, as we remember those in our communities who died in armed conflicts over the years and those who have died of more natural causes more recently, we thank you that their suffering is now over and they are at peace. Help us to recognise that our grief is for ourselves and for those who are bereaved, but whose hope and faith can live on.

**Lord help us to change and grow to be more like you in our care for those who mourn.**

**Amen.**

We join together in saying the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

### **Requests for Prayers**

If there is someone or something that you would like to pray for please email us at [eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com](mailto:eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com)



**Please continue to pray for** the ill and isolated, frontline, hospital and medical staff and for all those who are in any kind of need. Pray for those lost during wartime and help heal the pain of grief in those left behind. We give thanks for all who work to ensure we never forget their sacrifice.

**Those who are sick:** Roy and Margaret Putnam, Richard Clements, Christopher Frith, Edward Bunn, Brian Bolam, Alison Edwards

**We continue to pray for:** Don Dufty, Percy and Sharon Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt, Mary Doney

**Those in residential care:** Sheila Bigland-Gibbons, Barbara Milton, Rita Sheppy

**Those who have died and their families:** Brian Druce, Charles Brazier, Nils Wilkes, Simon Flynn, Doreen Byrd

**Anniversary of a death:** Please pray for those who have lost loved ones

**Morning Prayers via Zoom on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am**

Reverend Allison will be leading Morning Prayer via Zoom this Sunday at 10.30am. If you would like to join the service either by video or dialing in from your telephone; please contact Alison Khan at [acbhteam@gmail.com](mailto:acbhteam@gmail.com) or 07984 748059 who will send you the invite link.

## News from the Diocese

Prayers and diocesan news can be found at [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)



The Prayer Diary is produced by the Communications Team as a monthly PDF and posted each day on the homepage and our social media channels. Download the Prayer Diary (PDF) - [November](#)

### Reverend Allison Davies

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group

