

Mulbarton Morning Worship, Sunday 10th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Theme: PREPARE!

WELCOME..... Notices.....

INTRODUCTION: Focus for 2nd Sunday of Advent is John the Baptist, born to PREPARE the way for Christ

SING: Make way, make way, for Christ the King (by Graham Kendrick)

LIGHT a candle for Advent – with the words of the ‘Benedictus’

(N.B. ‘Israel’ = descendants of Jacob, renamed Israel, NOT a country. The ‘child’ is John the Baptist – this prophecy was said or sung by his father)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us.

To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people the knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

CONFESSION:

**O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God Almighty.**

**In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
our Judge and our Redeemer. AMEN**

A REMINDER OF FORGIVENESS:

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

READING 1 – Isaiah 40 verses 1 – 11:

¹. Comfort, comfort my people
says your God.

². Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³. A voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴. Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed
and all the people shall see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

⁶. A voice says, 'Cry out.'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

'All people are like grass and their faithfulness
is like the flowers of the field.

⁷. The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸. The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures for ever.'

⁹. You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

¹⁰. See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
see, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹. He tends his flock like a shepherd:

he gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

SING: How lovely on the mountains..... Our God reigns (based on Isaiah 40)

READING 2 – Mark 1 verses 1 – 8:

¹ **The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,** ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way'
³ 'a voice calling in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him."'

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, **preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**

⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. ⁶ **John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist,** and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: 'After me comes one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals **I am not worthy** to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptise you with water, but **he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.**'

TALK by Jill Wright: PREPARE!

SING in response: (by Brian Doerksen)

Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold and precious silver.
Purify my heart.
Let me be as gold, pure gold.

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy, set apart for you, Lord.
I choose to be holy,
set apart for you, my Master,
ready to do your will.

Purify my heart,
cleans me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart,
cleans me from my sin, deep within.

SING in worship: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty....
lift up his name with the sound of singing.... (by Nathan Fellingham)

CREED, based on Revelation chapters 4 & 5:

We say together in faith:

Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is and is to come.

We believe in God the Father who created all things:

**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

**for with his blood he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language
and people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**the Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!"
Even so, come, Lord Jesus! AMEN**

PRAYERS led by Bev

LORD'S PRAYER: As our Saviour Christ taught us, we pray...

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. AMEN

SING: These are the days of Elijah.... 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord' (by Robin Mark)

A PRAYER for Advent 2:

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our Judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

'THE GRACE':

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, now and always.
AMEN