

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
3RD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT
Remembrance Sunday
8th November 2020

TODAY

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

8:00 pm Compline on Zoom

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

Weekend e-Church available from Noon

NEXT SUNDAY – 2nd BEFORE ADVENT

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end

Wisdom 90:1-8

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

WEDNESDAY 18th

Revelation 4

Psalm 150

Luke 19:11-28

FROM THE VICAR

Remembrance Sunday provokes mixed reactions.

For some, it is one of the most important days in the year. It is, at least, one of the few days in the year when our civic institutions look to the church to provide a spiritual and liturgical expression of our national life. We are called upon to set 'our island story' in a religious context. There is, I'm confident, no other day in our calendar where church and state come together in quite the same way with quite the same purpose.

Last year, though, when we welcomed a cohort of ordinands from the Lincoln School of Theology to our Remembrance Sunday service, I was struck by how many of them wondered whether we really ought to be doing this at all. For those soon-to-be ordained folk, Remembrance Sunday could not be

observed without falling into the trap of glorifying violence, or worse, of suggesting that God honours human military activity.

These differing reactions reflect, it seems to me, the profound moral ambiguity of a day like Remembrance Sunday. On the one hand, no Christian person can easily escape or ignore the teaching of Christ, nor the fact that if that teaching were universally obeyed there would be no wars, ever, anywhere. The danger of enlisting our religion in our warlike actions is clear throughout our history. But, as Bob Dylan once sang, 'if God's on our side then he'll stop the next war'.

On the other hand, there are the people, the named individuals, the women and men who fought and died to defend us, to defend the world, against tyranny and evil. Our Lord also taught that a person who lays down their life willingly in service of others displays great love, the greatest love of all.

Your feelings about Remembrance Sunday probably relate to which of these two 'hands' you find more persuasive and compelling. For me, it's important to hold the two in tension. It's uncomfortable, but that's the point. War displays the very best and very worst of human nature entangled, often even within the same individual. It shows us who we are, where the seemingly harmless impulse to address our problems by seeking greater power over others ultimately leads, but also what courage and sacrifice we are capable of when pushed to the extremes.

This year we are prevented from gathering together in church on Remembrance Sunday. We will each sit in our own home and perhaps watch the video that has been produced for our own parish, or maybe the televised national events. We will be reminded even more forcibly than usual at this time of year how frail and fragile we are.

My prayer is that this will lead us individually and as a nation to turn back to God and to pray earnestly for God's mercy.

May God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

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Parish Office

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Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

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www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

MORNING PRAYER ON ZOOM

Throughout November Morning Prayer will be said on Zoom. Please use this link if you would like to join us:

Topic: Compline

Time: Nov 12, 2020 08:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88000806415>

Meeting ID: 880 0080 6415

COMPLINE ON ZOOM

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have called for us to keep Thursdays in lockdown as days of intentional prayer. Compline will be said on Zoom at 8pm each Thursday evening in November. Please use this link if you would like to join us:

Topic: Compline

Time: Nov 12, 2020 08:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88000806415>

Meeting ID: 880 0080 6415

ADVENT CALENDARS – FURTHER UPDATE!

I am now able to order Fair Trade Advent Calendars. This year we have three options. The Divine Chocolate Company offers milk and dark chocolate versions, both priced at £4.99. And the Meaningful Chocolate Company offers a milk chocolate calendar with a booklet of the Christmas story, priced at £3.99. If I get enough orders we may be given a discount. It would be helpful to have orders no later than Sunday 8th November, to the church office, or to me on Lincoln 526783. *John Simmons*

CAN YOU HELP?

We continue, lockdown notwithstanding, to aim to open church for private prayer and visitors from 10.00am to 11.00am each day, Monday to Sunday, but we need volunteers to help us achieve this. The work is not onerous and involves just one or two hours each month. Extending a friendly welcome is the main task. If you can help or if you'd just like more information, please contact me on 01522 520729 or email to joanberesford1@gmail.com. Thank you.

Joan Beresford

READINGS

**Sunday 8th November – 3rd Sunday before Advent,
and Remembrance Sunday**

COLLECT

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

WISDOM OF SOLOMON 6:12-16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who
desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no
difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be
free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

CANTICLE

WISDOM 6:17-20

Refrain: Glory to the One who gives me wisdom.

The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire
for instruction,
and concern for instruction is love of her,
and love of her is the keeping of her laws,
and giving heed to her laws is assurance of
immortality,
and immortality brings one near to God;
so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom. **R**

SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-END

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 25:1-13

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples:

'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

POST COMMUNION

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Wednesday 11th November

COLLECT

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

TITUS 3:1-7

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarrelling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he 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. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

PSALM

PSALM 23

Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The Lord is my shepherd;

therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures

and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul

and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. **R**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me

in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil

and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **R**

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice.

He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

POST COMMUNION

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**