

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
CHRIST THE KING
22nd 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 – 1st OF ADVENT

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER

Isaiah 64:1-9	Isaiah 25:6-10a
Psalms 80:1-8	Psalms 23
1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Matthew 15:29-37
Mark 13:24-end	

FROM THE VICAR

A few times in the last weeks I've been asked questions about the future. Some of these questions have referred ironically to my crystal ball, and I must admit that there have been moments when I have found myself with no clue as to how to answer.

Predicting the future is never easy, but our current circumstances make it hugely more difficult. We are at the mercy of decisions made in other places by people whose priorities are both opaque and very different from our own. Those decisions are often presented to us at very short notice, sometimes even after they are supposed to have been implemented.

I don't, of course, have a crystal ball, but I do have something that is in some ways considerably

better. I am referring to the promises of Almighty God.

Those promises don't, I hasten to add, allow us to know what the Government will announce, on or around the end of the current lockdown. They don't tell us what the winning numbers on the lottery are going to be, or who will win the Premier League title next year.

Further, they don't suggest that our lives of Christian faith and discipleship are going to be easy or straightforward. On the contrary, the Bible is clear that those who are faithful to Christ will encounter trials and persecutions.

All of that might tempt you to wonder what those promises are worth! It's only human to want to know the detail of what is coming next. It's only natural to want to hear that our future will be better than our present and our past.

God does not offer us that, at least not for this present life. But I think that what God *does* promise is of far greater value. God's offer of forgiveness of our sins and a share in God's own eternal life adds up to a promise that we can live without guilt and without fear.

God knows better than we know ourselves what we most profoundly need and seek, so it's interesting to note that rather than guaranteeing a life of ease and comfort, still less a winning lottery ticket, God promises us something else: a security based on a share in God's own eternal life; a happiness based on a relationship with God in Christ.

I can't tell the future. In fact, most of my efforts to do so end up making a fool of me. But I can point everyone towards the amazing promises of God. These promises point us towards a deeper understanding of what we really need as human beings, as well as reassuring us that our future, as indeed the future of all things, is neither known nor fixed, but is in God's hands.

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

VIRTUAL POSADA

For the last several years our Posada has travelled around the parish during Advent. For those who don't know, this is a small nativity set that we welcome into our homes for one evening in December. It's a practical, visual and beautiful representation of our welcoming Jesus into our lives.

This year the physical Posada won't be able to travel the parish. Instead, a short video of the Posada 'ceremony' will 'travel' in its place. We're now looking for folks to sign-up to receive the virtual Posada by email.

All you have to do is send us an email address. You can send this to the Parish Office, to me or to Alice. You will then receive a link to the Posada video by email during Advent.

Do please hurry, though, as Advent is nearly upon us! Do also

COMPLINE AND MORNING PRAYER 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.

Throughout November Morning Prayer will also be said on Zoom.

Please use this link if you would like to join us:
Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 880 0080 6415

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

ADVENT AT ST NICHOLAS

Advent begins on Sunday November 29th. We will be marking this with the launch of our virtual Posada on e-Church. See above for details of how to sign up to receive the electronic Posada into your home.

Our Advent Course will be held on Zoom, every Wednesday @ 7 pm. Alice will be exploring the great Advent themes of Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell in the Book of Common Prayer.

Advent services will continue on e-Church, and God-willing resume in the church building from Sunday 6th December, which is also our Patronal Festival.

Please contact the Parish Office to sign up to our e-Church mailing, or to receive the Zoom link.

HARVEST THANKS

Many thanks for all the donations we received at Harvest. A total of £587.50 was raised for Lincoln Community Larder.

READINGS

Sunday 22nd November – Christ the King

COLLECT

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. **Amen**

FIRST READING

EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

PSALM

PSALM 95:1-7

Refrain: The Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods.

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods. **R**
In his hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land. **R**
Come, let us worship and bow down
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God;

we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. **R**

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 1:15-END

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 25:31-END

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked

and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

POST COMMUNION

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 25th November

COLLECT

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. **Amen**

FIRST READING

REVELATION 15:1-4

Then I saw another portent in heaven, great and amazing: seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is ended. And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

'Great and amazing are your deeds,
Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations!
Lord, who will not fear
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your judgements have been revealed.'

PSALM

PSALM 98

Refrain: The Lord has made known his salvation.

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His own right hand and his holy arm
have won for him the victory.
The Lord has made known his salvation;
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of
the nations. **R**
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. **R**

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;
break into singing and make music.
Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the voice of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sound praises before the Lord, the King. **R**
Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.
Let the rivers clap their hands
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity. **R**

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 21:12-19

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.'

POST COMMUNION

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**