

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
BAPTISM OF CHRIST
10th January 2021

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist

THIS WEEK

Please note that all services and events are subject to late changes, and get in touch before finalising your plans.

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:30 am Said Eucharist
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

NEXT SUNDAY – 2ND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 20TH JANUARY</u>
1 Samuel 3:1-10	Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17
Psalms 139:1-9	Psalms 110:1-4
Revelation 5:1-10	Mark 3:1-6
John 1:43-end	

FROM THE VICAR

My brother sent me a joke earlier this week. "After my free seven-day trial I am returning 2021 as it has not lived up to my expectations."

Ten days into this new calendar year and nothing much seems to be getting better. Covid is resurgent, and despite advances in medical technology that offer hope in the coming months, right here and right now things are fairly grim. Meanwhile, events in America are truly alarming.

Once again it is hard to know where to look for hope, for comfort and encouragement. In a long phone conversation with a friend and colleague a week or so ago, I listened as he told me that until

very recently he'd believed that things were basically getting better but now he wasn't at all sure. I knew exactly what he meant and how he felt.

At times like these I think it is helpful to begin by recognising that disappointment is among the most elemental of all emotions. When our hopes are disappointed, when our expectations are frustrated, things happen in our brains that make us feel really terrible. These are not trivial feelings to be suppressed by effort, but deep wounds to be acknowledged.

In the film *Clockwise* starring John Cleese there is a line that expresses it well – 'I can take the despair. It's the hope I can't stand.' Allowing ourselves to hope at all can begin to seem foolish, even immature. What's the point in looking forward to anything only to find yourself disappointed?

Yet our Christian faith tells us that despair is a sin and hope is a virtue.

Should we then commit ourselves to a relentless and unrealistic optimism, the kind that can so easily drive those around us into a reactive despair?! Of course not. Christian hope is not in the least unrealistic and has very little in common with optimism. It is, rather, that aspect of our faith that trusts that the future is in God's hands.

Few people in the history of the Church have understood this better than Mother Julian of Norwich. Julian's most often quoted words are justly famous: 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' (These actually appear in her writings as words spoken to her by Jesus.) This is not because life will be plain sailing, nor yet because we will be spared the pains and disappointments that are common to our human condition, but rather because our eternal destiny is safe in the hands of God who loves us.

May that same God refresh your hope, and may God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

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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

REVEREND CANON ANDREW STOKES

We continue to mourn the loss of Fr Andrew Stokes died on 30th December following a lengthy illness. Andrew was a fine priest and a great servant of the church in this Diocese. To those who had the privilege of knowing him personally, he was a loyal friend, both charming and wise. I will not be alone in missing him greatly.

Andrew's funeral service will take place at St Nicholas Church on Wednesday 20th January. Due to Covid restrictions on numbers, this will be a private service attended only by the close family and those whom they have invited.

Please continue to pray for Jane and for all the family at this sad time.

Hugh

COVID RESTRICTIONS

Under current Government regulations churches are permitted to remain open for public worship provided good risk management protocols are in place. For the time being, therefore, our church building will continue to be open as it has been since the beginning of December.

I know that opinions vary as to the wisdom of this, and doubtless you will be aware that other churches in our area have taken a different path. I want to be absolutely clear that no one should do anything that contravenes Government advice as it applies to them personally. Neither should anyone feel under any pressure to do anything that makes them feel unsafe. We continue to offer online worship and phone-based pastoral support, so please do take advantage of these resources and let us know if you or anyone known to you is in particular need.

If you do want to attend church, please continue let us know in advance. This is important to ensure numbers are within safe limits, and to operate the Test and Trace system.

Meanwhile, we continue to pray daily for God's healing mercy to be shown to our suffering world.

Hugh

READINGS

Sunday 10th January

COLLECT

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

FIRST READING

GENESIS 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

PSALM

PSALM 29

Refrain: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. **R**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice. **R**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox. **R**

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare;
in his temple all cry, 'Glory!' **R**

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing
of peace. **R**

SECOND READING

ACTS 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of

repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

GOSPEL

MARK 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

POST COMMUNION

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 13th January

COLLECT

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

FIRST READING

HEBREWS 2:14-END

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

PSALM

PSALM 105:1-9

Refrain: Remember the marvels the Lord has done.

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises,
and tell of all his marvellous works.

Rejoice in the praise of his holy name;
let the hearts of them rejoice who seek the Lord.

Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his face continually. **R**

Remember the marvels he has done,
his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,

O seed of Abraham his servant,
O children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the Lord our God;
his judgements are in all the earth. **R**

He has always been mindful of his covenant,
the promise that he made for a thousand
generations:

The covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath that he swore to Isaac. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MARK 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

POST COMMUNION

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**