

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP  
Registered Charity Number: 1133977  
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk  
**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**  
17<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### NOTES

***Due to Covid restrictions, list entries in italics are private services. Please do not come to these unless you have been personally invited.***

***Joining instructions for online services and events are provided in the notices below.***

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

### TODAY

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

### THIS WEEK

#### **MONDAY**

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

#### **TUESDAY**

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

#### **WEDNESDAY**

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom  
9:30 am Said Eucharist  
4:30 pm *Funeral – Canon Andrew Stokes*

#### **THURSDAY**

8:45 am Morning Prayer on Zoom  
12:15 pm *Funeral – Hazel Simons*

### NEXT SUNDAY – 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

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

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</u>
Genesis 14:17-20	Hebrews 10:11-18
Psalms 128	Psalms 110:1-4
Revelation 19:6-10	Mark 4:1-20
John 2:1-11	

### FROM THE VICAR

If you have the BBC iPlayer, you might want to check out the film 'Amazing Grace'. It's a documentary about the making of Aretha Franklin's album of the same name.

'Amazing Grace' stands out in a remarkable career for two particular reasons. The first is that it is the only album of gospel music Franklin ever recorded. The second is that it is the highest selling album she herself ever released, as well as being the most successful gospel album in history.

I was prompted to pay attention to it by one of those moments when your car radio surprises you. A track from the album was played, a sort of 'mash up' of the gospel hymn 'Precious Lord, Take my Hand' and the Carole King song 'You've Got a Friend'. (King also wrote one of Franklin's biggest secular hits – 'You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman'.)

Emotions are never far from the surface in the current circumstances, but even allowing for that the impact of this track on me was dramatic. I had to pull over.

I was moved in a very different way on Wednesday evening when our PCC met online to discuss whether and how to remain open for public worship. You all know the outcome of that discussion. What only those who were there will know is that it was conducted with remarkable honesty, humility, respect and love.

It made me reflect that sometimes, when there really is no good outcome, a good process is all you can achieve. We achieved a good process on Wednesday, even in the midst of our shared recognition that no really good outcome was available to us.

In the spiritual life, too, we must sometimes attend to the process rather than the outcome. Perhaps most of the time, the day to day task of being a Christian is not about achieving goals or making progress so much as remaining faithful to the simple disciplines of prayer and obedience to Christ's great commandment of love.

That's perhaps why I found hearing Aretha Franklin sing about Jesus holding her hand, Jesus the friend who would never leave her or forsake her, so very moving. We don't always know the path ahead, but we know that Our Lord is with us every step of the way.

May you know the presence of Jesus in your hearts and lives in the coming days, 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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*

### **NEWS OF CHURCH FRIENDS**

If you have news you want to share with your friends at St Nicholas, why not drop us a line? We'd love to include it in these notices. For those members of our church community who cannot get online, this newsletter is the main way of keeping in touch with what is happening, and we do have space to share a bit more general news in this way.

Do please make sure that you have permission from anyone you mention other than yourself in your news. Other than that, we can't wait to hear from you!

### **MORNING PRAYER ON ZOOM**

Please contact the Parish Office or Alice to receive the Zoom link for Morning Prayer. If you've never joined in with the Daily Office, why not use this as an opportunity to start?

### **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 for public worship three times a week.

As most will already know, however, we have taken the painful decision to suspend all other activities that take place in the church building for the present.

I want to reiterate 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 17<sup>th</sup> January*

### COLLECT

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### FIRST READING

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

The boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

### PSALM

PSALM 139:1-9

**Refrain: I will thank you because I am marvellously made.**

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You mark out my journeys and my resting place  
and are acquainted with all my ways. **R**

For there is not a word on my tongue,  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You encompass me behind and before  
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
so high that I cannot attain it. **R**

Where can I go then from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand shall lead me,  
your right hand hold me fast. **R**

### SECOND READING

REVELATION 5:1-10

I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.' Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

for you were slaughtered and by your blood you  
ransomed for God

saints from every tribe and language and people  
and nation;

you have made them to be a kingdom and priests  
serving our God,

and they will reign on earth.'

### GOSPEL

JOHN 1:43-END

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels

of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

#### **POST COMMUNION**

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### ***Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January***

#### **COLLECT**

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### **FIRST READING**

HEBREWS 7:1-3, 15-17

This 'King Melchizedek of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham as he was returning from defeating the kings and blessed him'; and to him Abraham apportioned 'one-tenth of everything'. His name, in the first place, means 'king of righteousness'; next he is also king of Salem, that is, 'king of peace'. Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest for ever.

It is even more obvious when another priest arises, resembling Melchizedek, one who has become a priest, not through a legal requirement concerning physical descent, but through the power of an indestructible life. For it is attested of him, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.'

#### **PSALM**

PSALM 110:1-4

***Refrain: The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel.***

The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.'

May the Lord stretch forth the sceptre of your power;

rule from Zion in the midst of your enemies. **R**

'Noble are you on this day of your birth;

on the holy mountain, from the womb of the dawn the dew of your new birth is upon you.'

The Lord has sworn and will not retract:

'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.' **R**

#### **GOSPEL READING**

MARK 3:1-6

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath,

so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come forward.' Then he said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?' But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

#### **POST COMMUNION**

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**