

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR ADVENT SUNDAY:

Isaiah 64: 1-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-37; Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18

WEEKLY REFLECTION & STORY:

Jeremy Hopkinson, LLM, has written a brief reflection and prayer for Advent Sunday – the document is attached.

There is a recording of Jeremy reading this reflection and prayer, plus Stuart Leeming reading “The Big Spender” from the Lion Storyteller Bible. These were filmed at the altar in Bow Brickhill church, the venue in normal times for the annual Advent Sunday Carol Service. They can be found on the following links:

- **Reflection & Prayer:-** <https://youtu.be/ZIWN0my2JcM>
- **“The Big Spender”:-** <https://youtu.be/rA6sStEabFI>

SUNDAY SERVICE - Revd Val Plumb, Rural Dean for Mursley Deanery

The Rural Dean has recorded a 15/20-minute service – Advent 1: Are you ready for Christmas? Are you ready for life?

Follow the link:- <https://youtu.be/a9psABdoP60>

RADIO 4:

Sunday Worship at 8.10am Cities of Promise - A place for good news

During this era of Covid the city seems to have been devalued as a place of human flourishing. Instead it's become a place of fear of contamination - a place to get away from, no longer a sought-after place to live. But the biblical view is of a redeemed city, a place where human culture is valued alongside restored relationships - a place of beauty and worship of the living God.

Theologian and scholar of Celtic Christianity, Gilbert Markus, marks the eve of St Andrew's Day with an exploration of how places of pilgrimage became bustling places of human interaction, how spiritual pilgrims medieval and contemporary might share a vision of a heavenly city, and how cities have always represented a mix of the worst and best of humanity - but places where good news can always be found.

Reading: John 1: 35-42, John 1: 1-18

BBC TELEVISION:

Sunday Worship BBC 1 at 10.30am First Sunday of Advent

The Very Rev Dr Paul Shackerley leads a service for the first Sunday of Advent from Brecon Cathedral in Wales. With hymns from the Songs of Praise archives from across Wales.

Songs of Praise BBC 1 at 12.20pm Young Chorister of the Year - Boys' Semi-Final

Aled Jones presents the boys' semi-final of the BBC Young Chorister of the Year competition from Gorton Monastery in Manchester. Five of the best boy choristers in the UK compete to impress judges John Rutter, Laura Wright and Carl Jackson and win one of three remaining places in the final.

OXFORD DIOCESE LIVE STREAMING:

The Diocesan Church at Home service for Advent Sunday at 10am

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. Today the first Advent candle is lit and we recognise the Advent of Christ, the light of the world.

As we prepare for Christmas in our hearts and in our lives, in the very particular context of COVID-19, prayer is likely to be our focus. There are resources we can draw on that are commended by Bishop Steven. Click the Discovering Prayer link, below.

Presiding is the Venerable Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham. The address is given by the Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham.

To download the order of service and to watch the service, live or at a later time, follow the link:- <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>

To access by telephone, dial 01865 920930 to hear the latest service (press 0= short service, 1= full service). Standard call rates apply.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ONLINE:

Worship at Home, an Online Weekly Service at 9am

The First Sunday of Advent from St Martin-in-the-Fields

Mark the First Sunday of Advent with this online Comfort and Joy service. From St Martin in the Fields with Rev Sam Wells, the service observes the start of Advent with music, reflection and prayer.

Click on the following link:-

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services/worship-home-first-sunday-advent-st>

To download the Order of Service, follow the link below:-

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/Advent%201%20OOS%20VFF%20AFN.docx_0.pdf

PLUS:-

BISHOP STEVEN'S LATEST PODCAST, RECORDED ON 25th NOVEMBER:

Episode 8:- Lamb of God

Bishop Steven writes:-

Three times now, the unknown prophet has sung to us of the servant of God. The fourth song is a reflection on the suffering of the nation and the way God will raise up his people again, no matter how difficult the circumstances or how far we have fallen.

How are we to hear these words of Isaiah afresh today as we walk through the pandemic, as we re-assess our lives and the life of the church and the life of the nation?

To listen to the podcast, go to:-

<https://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/podcast/lamb-of-god/>