

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTMAS 2020

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY:

Isaiah 9: 2-7; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-14 Psalm 96

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS, 27th DECEMBER:

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-21 Psalm 148

WEEKLY REFLECTION & STORY:

The Rector has written a brief reflection and prayer for Christmas Day – the document is attached.

Instead of recording the weekly reflection, the Rector's sermon at the Christmas Day service at Great Brickhill will be recorded and uploaded to You Tube on Boxing Day. The link will be on the Home page of the website:-

www.brickhillchurches.org.uk

Andrew Smith has recorded the story "The First Christmas", filmed near the Christmas tree in Great Brickhill Church. The You Tube link is:-

https://youtu.be/D5E6_xwlze4

CHRISTMAS SERVICE - Revd Val Plumb, Rural Dean for Mursley

Deanery has recorded a 15/20-minute service:- 2020 a Christmas Day like no other!

Follow the link:- <https://youtu.be/sGqw0tiqljl>

RADIO 4:

Christmas Eve at 3.00pm A festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Recorded in the majestic beauty of the 15th century chapel of King's College, Cambridge. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols signals the beginning of Christmas for millions of listeners across the world. The service consists of a series of Bible readings which tell the story of the loving purposes of God, interspersed with both new and traditional hymns and carols sung in the majestic beauty of the 15th century King's College Chapel.

This year's service marks the musical contribution (through their arrangements and descants) of several former Directors of Music, including Sir David Willcocks, Sir Philip Ledger and Sir Stephen Cleobury, as well as the current Director, Daniel Hyde.

The English twentieth century composer Elizabeth Poston features in the service, as well as arrangements by Polish composer Witold Lutoslawski and former chorister Bob Chilcott. The service has been broadcast live from a packed chapel on Christmas Eve for over 90 years, but for safety reasons this year it has been recorded without the presence of a congregation.

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at 11.30pm

The Mass of the Nativity of the Lord, live from Manchester Cathedral.

Christmas Service: Born for us Today at 9.00am

The Rev Richard Carter leads a socially-distanced retelling of the Christmas story starting with a donkey in Hackney City Farm's most draughty stable. Angels appear at the Annunciation, shepherds "in-the-fields" and Joseph does finally agree to let everybody in, all in agreement with latest Church of England guidance! The preacher is the Vicar, the Rev Dr Sam Wells. Music is provided by St Martin's Voices and Strings directed by Gabriella Noble with organist Ben Giddens.

Sunday Worship, 27th December 8.10am

"Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?"

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby marks the 850th anniversary of the murder of his predecessor Archbishop Thomas Becket on the altar of Canterbury Cathedral. The 'turbulent priest' was the Archbishop and the infamous quotation is attributed to the King at the time, Henry II. Their utterance by the King encouraged four loyal knights to travel from the Royal court in Normandy to Canterbury Cathedral, and confront Archbishop Thomas Becket, murdering him in the process. No one believed that Henry directly ordered Becket to be killed, but his words started a chain of events that are fused within the collective memory and illustrate the law of unintended consequences that are still quoted today. The service is led in Canterbury Cathedral by the Dean Dr Robert Willis.

BBC TELEVISION:

BBC 2 Christmas Eve at 5.30pm Carols from Kings

A solo chorister begins to sing Once in Royal David's City, in the candlelit chapel of King's College, Cambridge, and the well-loved celebration of the Christmas story begins once more. This year, the young choristers are joined by The King's Singers, singing within separate bubbles and filmed without a congregation, to protect against coronavirus.

BBC 1 Midnight Mass from Clifton Cathedral BBC 1 at 11.45pm

The traditional Christmas Eve service, led by the bishop of Clifton, the Rt Rev Declan Lang.

BBC 1 Christmas Morning from Birmingham at 10.00am

Christmas morning worship with a gospel flavour, live from the Church of God of Prophecy in Birmingham. The service is led by the senior pastor, Bishop Paul McCalla, and Peter Sutcliffe, senior pastor at the Nechells Outreach Centre. Leading the service with them is a small group of singers and musicians – all socially distanced in compliance with Covid 19 regulations.

BBC 1 Sunday Worship 27th December at 9.10am The First Sunday of Christmas

On the first Sunday of Christmas, the Rev Canon Mark Preece, Canon Precentor, leads the morning worship from Llandaff Cathedral in south Wales. With hymns and carols from the Songs of Praise archives and a new recording from the Cardiff-based choir Côrddydd.

BBC 1 Songs of Praise 27th December at 1.20pm Mica Paris's Faith Journey

Renowned choir director and vocal coach Mark De-Lisser joins soul legend Mica Paris as she shares her journey of faith. It's a story that took Mica from a childhood in church, through fame and fortune, love and loss and ultimately back to gospel music. Mica takes Mark to the Pentecostal church in south London where her grandparents were pastors and where, as a child, she spent time every day of the week. She recalls those happy years when she discovered her gift of singing, quickly becoming a child sensation and touring churches all over the UK.

OXFORD DIOCESE LIVE STREAMING:

The Diocesan Church at Home services over Christmas

Christmas Eve - Midnight Service at 11.30pm

Celebrate the first choral eucharist of Christmas from Christ Church Cathedral, with music, readings, prayer and worship. Christmas 2020 will be like no other, but the one thing we do know is that we will celebrate this very special season with messages of love and good wishes to our friends and families. We will celebrate in our hearts and souls.

Christmas Day at 10.00am

It is an enormous pleasure to worship with you on Christmas morning. We know that many people are separated from family members due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and that many will also be mourning the loss of loved ones. But we acknowledge with praise and thanksgiving the One who has come into the world, the Light who triumphed over darkness. We are delighted that the president and preacher today is the Right Revd Dr Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford. He is assisted by the deacon, the Revd Claire Browes, curate at St Mary and St John's Church, Cowley.

Sunday 27 December at 10.00am

Today, we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on the final Sunday of this unusual year. Whether you are spending Christmas alone or gathered with others, you are welcome as we reflect together in our worship on the meaning and hope of Christ's incarnation amid so much loss and uncertainty. We are delighted that the president today is the Revd Canon Richard Peers, sub dean at Christ Church Cathedral, and that our address is given by the Venerable Stephen Pullin, Archdeacon of Berkshire. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed ideas, prayers and action to this week's Church at Home.

To download the order of services and to watch any of the above services, 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, Online Services:-

24/12/20 Midnight Mass with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Dover

Gather with us for Midnight Mass as we remember the birth of Jesus Christ into the world, led by the Bishop of Dover with a Christmas message from the Archbishop of Canterbury. Celebrate the first service of Christmas online from St Martin's, Canterbury, the oldest church in continuous use in the English speaking world, as we pray for God's comfort and joy to be born afresh in our lives.

Click on the following link:-

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services/worship-home-midnight-mass-archbishop>

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

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/Midnight%20Mass%20OOS%20VF%20AFN.docx.pdf>

27/12/2020 the First Sunday of Christmas with Church Army

Celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas with us, joining this service in partnership with Church Army. "God is ever present, silently and patiently waiting, longing for us to respond once more to the gentle call of the Christ child."

Click on the following link:-

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

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/Christmas%201%20-%20OOS%20AFN%20VF.docx.pdf>