

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

### Malachi 3.1-4

“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have people who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

### COLLECT:

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

## PSALM: 80

- <sup>1</sup> Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock.  
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,  
shine forth <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Awaken your might; come and save us.
- <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us,  
that we may be saved.
- <sup>4</sup> How long, Lord God Almighty,  
will your anger smoulder against the prayers  
of your people?
- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
- <sup>6</sup> You have made us an object of derision to our  
neighbours, and our enemies mock us.
- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us,  
that we may be saved.
- <sup>8</sup> You transplanted a vine from Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.
- <sup>9</sup> You cleared the ground for it,  
and it took root and filled the land.
- <sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches.
- <sup>11</sup> Its branches reached as far as the Sea,  
its shoots as far as the River.
- <sup>12</sup> Why have you broken down its walls  
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?
- <sup>13</sup> Boars from the forest ravage it,  
and insects from the fields feed on it.
- <sup>14</sup> Return to us, God Almighty!  
Look down from heaven and see!  
Watch over this vine,  
<sup>15</sup> the root your right hand has planted,  
the son you have raised up for yourself.
- <sup>16</sup> Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;  
at your rebuke your people perish.
- <sup>17</sup> Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.
- <sup>18</sup> Then we will not turn away from you;  
revive us, and we will call on your name.
- <sup>19</sup> Restore us, Lord God Almighty;  
make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

## GOSPEL

### Luke 3.1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene - during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the desert,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.  
Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.  
And the whole human race will see God’s salvation.’”

## EPISTLE

### Philippians 1.3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

## POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SERVICES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

09.30 COV: Parish Communion (*Revd R Lancaster*)  
09.30 SPA: Morning Worship (*Jill Dighton*)  
10.45 KIM: Family Christingle Service (*Lay Leader*)  
15.00 STO: Evensong (*Jill Dighton*)

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December

09.30 TIL: Family Service (*Lay Leader*)  
09.30 EAS: Parish Communion (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)  
10.45 KIM: Family Communion (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)  
15.00 SPA: Messy Church: Christingle (*Lay Leader*)

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December

17.00 TIL: Christingle Service (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December

09.30 COV: Morning Worship (*Lay Leader*)  
09.30 STO: BCP Communion (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)  
09.30 SPA: Parish Communion (*Revd R Lancaster*)  
10.45 KIM: Matins (*Revd R Lancaster*)  
18.00 KIM: Carol Service (*Revd R Lancaster*)

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

18.00 EAS: Carol Service (*Revd J. Young*)  
18.00 STO: Carol Service (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)  
10.45 KIM: Parish Communion (*Revd R Lancaster*)

### Monday December 24<sup>th</sup>

23.30 KIM: Midnight Mass (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)  
23.30 SPA: Midnight Mass (*Revd I Brennand*)

### Christmas Day Services

09.30 COV w. TIL: Family Communion  
*(Revd Dr J Rawlinson)*  
10.30 STO: Family Communion (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)  
10.45 KIM: Family Communion (*Revd R Lancaster*)  
09.30 EAS: Family Communion (*Revd J. Young*)

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December

10.45 KIM: Group Service

## The South Leightonstone Group of Parishes

*(Barham & Woolley, Covington, Easton, Kimbolton,  
Spaldwick, Stow Longa and Tilbrook)*



## Sunday 9th December 2018 Second Sunday of Advent