

The Parish of Hempsted with St Mary de Lode  
and St Mary de Crypt, Gloucester  
*in partnership with Gloucester Cathedral*

**2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**5 December 2021**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be ev'ry soul from sin;  
make straight the way of God within,  
prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our sure reward;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
our souls to heav'nly grace once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent set thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore.

**Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness  
from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes  
in glory; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be  
upon you today and always. **Amen.**

[www.swithunandmary.org.uk](http://www.swithunandmary.org.uk)



*We are invited to light a candle in our home*

Lord Jesus, light of the world, the prophets said you would bring  
peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at  
Christmas and show all the world God's love. Amen.

*We sing or say*

Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew  
come to make, all things new  
bear his people's burden  
freely love and pardon.

*Ring bells ring, ring, ring!*  
*Sing choirs sing! Sing! Sing!*  
*When he comes, when he comes,*  
*who will make him welcome?*

Mary, hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed  
in her womb, God is laid:  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected.



Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar  
unborn Son of Mary  
Saviour, do not tarry!

### **We say Sorry to God and we Receive God's Forgiveness**

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'  
So let us listen and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

Heavenly Father, you have given us a universe of light:  
forgive us when we return to darkness.  
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world:  
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.  
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts:  
renew us in faith and love.  
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

May the God of love call *you* back, forgive *you* your sins,  
and assure *you* of eternal love in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

### **The Prayer for Today**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ  
comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our  
Lord and our God. Amen.

**Bible reading: Luke 3:1-6**



**Reflection (attached)**

**We Declare our Faith**

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe. Amen.

*1 Corinthians 15:3-7*

**Intercessions**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Peace**

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break  
upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow  
of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*We sing or say*