



Sunday 9th December 2018 Advent 2

Shake yourself from the dust, says the Lord,
arise, O captive Jerusalem; loose the bonds
from your neck, O captive daughter of
Zion. *Isaiah 52.2*

Prayer of the day

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came among us in great humility; that on the last day, when he comes again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

Isaiah 40.1-11 *Gai Scott*

1Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. **3** A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. **4** Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. **5** And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." **6** A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. **7** The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. **8** The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." **9** You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" **10** See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. **11** He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Acts 26.12-18 *Helen Herron*

12"On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. **13**About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my

516 Love divine, all loves excelling
54 I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship
538 O Jesus, I have promised

companions. **14**We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' **15**"Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' **16**" 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. **17**I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them **18**to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Luke 3.1-6 *Alex Drobnak*

1In 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-- **2**during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. **3**He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **4**As 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.

5Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

6And all mankind will see God's salvation.'

9th December 2018

Prayers

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thess 5:16-18

Government leaders

Pray for our Federal, State and Local Government leaders, that God would inspire and direct them to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

For our Church and Community

Pray for all volunteers and encourage them to develop their roles to enhance what they offer and create a sense of community amongst us, as we complete the Count-me-in forms.

Pray for our ministry team to focus on their mission, achieve their objectives and the upcoming Christmas events and services.

Pray for those in special need

Ask God to comfort, strengthen and deepen the trust of those who are sick and grieving. For people affected by the fires in Queensland & NSW. For the lonely or in special need at this time. For Fergus McCulla recovering from further surgery and support for him and his family.

Philadelphia Chinese Congregation

Thank God for the ministry and leadership of Rev. Carson Wu in our Chinese congregation. Pray for new outreach opportunities and planning for 2019.

For the work of Anglicare

Pray for the work of Anglicare towards asylum seekers to provide Christ-centred services, advocacy for the vulnerable and socially excluded. Keep us mindful of the needs of others and help us to be wise stewards of all you have entrusted to us. Guide us to those who need our help.

Prayer

O God, the author and lover of peace, in knowledge of whom stands our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend us your servants in all assaults of our enemies, that, surely trusting in your defence, we may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

St Martin's Mission Prayer

*Our heavenly Father, please bless St Martin's as we seek to make disciples of Christ, and see changing lives through grace, so that everyone reaches maturity in Christ. By your Spirit enable us to **connect** to Jesus and one another, **grow** in Christ-likeness, **serve** and meets the needs of others with the gifts you have given us, and **share** the love of Christ in our community and all the world. **Amen***

Action Items and Upcoming Events

- **Count-me-in 2019** return forms today – Drop off box in Narthex.
- **Carols at Killara Gardens 18 December at 10.30am** – Everyone welcome to participate and support them during the Christmas season.
- **Sunday 23 December 6pm** – Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.
- **Monday 24 December 4pm** – Kids Christmas
- **Tuesday 25 December** – 8am Choral Communion + 10am Family Service

Daily Bible Reading Plan

- ☐ Dec 9 Dan 1, Ps 129, Heb 7-8
- ☐ Dec 10 Dan 2-3, Ps 130, Heb 9
- ☐ Dec 11 Dan 4-5, Ps 131, Heb 10
- ☐ Dec 12 Dan 6-7, Ps 132, Heb 11
- ☐ Dec 13 Dan 8-9, Ps 133, Heb 12-13
- ☐ Dec 14 Dan 10-12, Ps 134, Jas 1-2
- ☐ Dec 15 Hos 1, Ps 135, Jas 3-5
- ☐ Dec 16 Hos 2-5, Ps 136, 1 Pet 1-2

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Sign up for daily

devotions <http://eepurl.com/c1QmND>

Set up your planned regular giving electronically to:
Electronic Giving: St Martin's Anglican Church BSB: 062 195 A/C: 1003 4848