

**Stainton, Hilton and Brookfield**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – year B**  
**29<sup>th</sup> November 20**

**WELCOME. to Worship at home.**

**Thought for the day**

Light a candle if you can do safely. If we were in church on this 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday we would light a candle for HOPE, looking forward as the ancestors of Jesus in the Old Testament did.

**COLLECT**

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

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence, as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your

presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

**PSALM 80.1–7, 16–18**

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.  
4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you

be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.**

My brothers and sisters:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. ch 13.24-37**

Jesus said to his disciples:  
In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

**Let us pray** *please add your own prayers*  
Everlasting God, at the start of this rather strange Season of Advent we ask you to prepare us for the coming, of your son Jesus Christ. Give us a sense of expectation as we hear again the familiar stories. We pray for your blessing on all those who lead, preach and teach and we pray especially for Rev. Claire here in these parishes as she seeks to lead us through Advent, until we celebrate together the birth of your Son on Christmas Day.

Creator God, govern the hearts and minds of all in authority that they may act justly, honestly and according to your will. Bring peace to countries where there is conflict. In this country we ask that you drive away despair from our politics, revive our dreams of justice and truth, and restore our passion for what is good and right.

Father God we pray for those amongst our families, friends and neighbours who will only see in Advent a hectic and worrying time in the run up to Christmas. Help us as we try to set an example of a true spirit of preparation,

May they see in us and in our Church the true meaning of Christmas .

Merciful God we pray for those in hospital or ill at home, those struggling with despair or depression and for all who care for them. Comfort and heal all who suffer, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Loving God we pray for those who have recently died and for those for whom this day will be their last. Be near to all who mourn and comfort them with the knowledge that in the coming of your son Jesus the gates of heaven will be opened wide for all who accept him as Lord and Saviour.

Advent Lord, draw near to us, strengthen our faith, deepen our love for you and for our neighbours and open our eyes to the wonder of your creation, so that when our Saviour comes he may find our hearts ready to receive him.

**Merciful father: accept these prayers for the sake of your son our Saviour Jesus Christ Amen**

**Say the Lord's Prayer knowing that we join with so many other Christians around the world.**

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