

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 20th December, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Psalm: Canticle Magnificat

New Testament: Romans 16: 25-27

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Revd. Jo Neary

We may never know why God chose Mary. We do not know why she was favoured so highly. We don't know why her particular character, her particular faith, her particular grace was important. But what we do know is that God chose to work in partnership with Mary to enact the incarnation. God chooses daily to work in partnership with us to enable his Kingdom to be revealed. God needs us, wants us, desires us to show up and do his will.

If we look a little ahead in the story – to the point when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visits Elizabeth, then we hear the Magnificat, her song of justice, her declaration of joy about what God has done for her and about what God, through Jesus, has done and will do for the world.

“He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly, he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.” Luke 1:52,53

Mary speaks of her own relationship with God, her obedience to his call and also proclaims the power of God in challenging the hierarchies of the world and ushering in a new way of living, with justice and mercy at the heart. I wonder what God is calling you to do and to speak about in your life?

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming
as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Worship to enjoy at home

Sunday: BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship, Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

Christmas Eve: Midnight Mass from Clifton Cathedral, BBC 1, 11.45pm, Carols from King's BBC2 5.30pm

Radio 4 A festival of Nine Lessons and Carols,

Christmas Day: Christmas Day Eucharist 10.00am.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.

