St Mary, Whitegate and St Peter, Little Budworth

Readings for Sunday 20th December – Advent 4

Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

COLLECT:

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.

PSALM: 89: 1-8

My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord: ♦

with my mouth will I proclaim your faithfulness throughout all generations.

I will declare that your love is established for ever; ♦

you have set your faithfulness as firm as the heavens.

For you said: 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; ♦

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

'Your seed will I establish for ever ♦

and build up your throne for all generations."'

The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, ♦

and your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones;

For who among the clouds can be compared to the Lord? ♦

Who is like the Lord among the host of heaven?

A God feared in the council of the holy ones♦

great and terrible above all those round about him.

Who is like you, Lord God of hosts? ♦

Mighty Lord, your faithfulness is all around you.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. AMEN

FIRST READING:

2 Samuel 7: 1-11,16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

SECOND READING:

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.
And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'
But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'
Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'[
The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born[d] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.'
Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

POST COMMUNION:

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE		
St Mary's	4.00 pm 11.30 pm	Crib Service Holy Communion
St Peter's	6.30 pm	9 Lessons & Carols
CHRISTMAS DAY		
St Marys	9.30 am	Holy Communion
St Peter's	11.00 am	Holy Communion

Please note there will be no services on Sunday 26th December

There will be Family Services in both churches on Sunday 3rd January

WHO TO CONTACT UNTIL A NEW VICAR IS APPOINTED

General Enquiries – please contact the Church Wardens:

St Mary's - WHITEGATE

Anne Blayney 07815 713012

Sandra Paskin 07590 125791

St Peter's - LITTLE BUDWORTH

Steve Simpson 07810 893456

Anne Hall 07973 139304

For Weddings and Baptisms

Rev Jane Millinchip 07891 981293
revjanemillinchip@outlook.com

For Funerals

Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802
jstopford801@btinternet.com

SAFEGUARDING:

St Mary's & St Peter's take our duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at
www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at:

https://www.chesterdiocese.org

and click on the "Safeguarding" tab