

## **Bible Readings & Prayers – 10th December, 2022**

### **Advent Candle Prayer**

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.

Watching, waiting, help us to be ready for you Jesus. Amen.

### **The Collect for Second Sunday of Advent**

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.

### **Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.  
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.  
A voice of one calling:  
"In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.  
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.  
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."  
A voice says, "Cry out."  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
"All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.  
The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever.”  
You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news 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!”  
See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.  
See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.  
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.

### **Mark 1:1-8**

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”—  
“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”