

## **Bible Readings & Prayers – Sunday 29th November, 2020**

### **Advent Candle Prayer**

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
born in David's city of Bethlehem,  
born like him to be a king:  
be born in our hearts at Christmas,  
be king of our lives today.  
Amen.

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

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

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.

### **Genesis 18:1-15**

The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

<sup>3</sup>He said, 'If I have found favour in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way – now that you have come to your servant.'

'Very well,' they answered, 'do as you say.'

<sup>6</sup>So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. 'Quick,' he said, 'get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.'

<sup>7</sup>Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

<sup>9</sup>'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him.

‘There, in the tent,’ he said.

<sup>10</sup>Then one of them said, ‘I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.’

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. <sup>11</sup>Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, ‘After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?’

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh and say, “Will I really have a child, now that I am old?” <sup>14</sup>Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.’

<sup>15</sup>Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, ‘I did not laugh.’

But he said, ‘Yes, you did laugh.’

### **John 8:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’

<sup>13</sup>The Pharisees challenged him, ‘Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.’

<sup>14</sup>Jesus answered, ‘Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. <sup>15</sup>You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. <sup>16</sup>But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. <sup>17</sup>In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true.