

## **Bible Readings & Prayers – Sunday 19th December, 2021**

### **Advent Candle Prayer**

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
Blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;  
Blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.  
Bless your church preparing for Christmas;  
And bless us your children, who long for your coming.  
Amen.

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

### **The Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this current age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Micah 5:2-5a**

‘But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.’

Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labour bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

And he will be our peace.

### **Luke 1:39-56**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth

heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

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.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.