

Parishes of Kirkby Ireleth and Broughton & Duddon

# THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

24<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent - Christmas Eve

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## Service of the Word

### Hymns

105 Christ, whose glory fills the skies  
182 For Mary, mother of our lord  
85 Brightest and best  
480 O come, O come, Emmanuel

### Collect

Almighty God,  
as we prepare with joy  
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,  
embrace the earth with your glory  
and be for us a living hope  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*A reading from the Old Testament –*

### Isaiah 7: 1 – 11, 16

In the days of Ahaz son of Jotham son of Uzziah, king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel went up to attack Jerusalem, but could not mount an attack against it. When the house of David heard that Aram had allied itself with Ephraim, the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

Then the LORD said to Isaiah, go out to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Fuller's Field, and say to him, Take heed, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smouldering stumps of firebrands, because of

the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah. Because Aram - with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah - has plotted evil against you, saying, let us go up against Judah and cut off Jerusalem and conquer it for ourselves and make the son of Tabeel king in it; therefore, thus says the Lord GOD:

It shall not stand,  
and it shall not come to pass.

For the head of Aram is Damascus,  
and the head of Damascus is Rezin.  
(Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered, no longer a people.)

The head of Ephraim is Samaria,  
and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.

If you do not stand firm in faith,  
you shall not stand at all.

Again, the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.

For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 89: 1 – 4, 19 - 26

<sup>1</sup> I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, for ever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

<sup>2</sup> I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

<sup>3</sup> You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one,

I have sworn to my servant David:  
<sup>4</sup> "I will establish your descendants for ever,  
 and build your throne for all generations."  
<sup>19</sup> Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful  
 one, and said:  
 'I have set the crown on one who is  
 mighty,  
 I have exalted one chosen from the people.  
<sup>20</sup> I have found my servant David;  
 with my holy oil I have anointed him;  
<sup>21</sup> my hand shall always remain with him;  
 my arm also shall strengthen him.  
<sup>22</sup> The enemy shall not outwit him,  
 the wicked shall not humble him.  
<sup>23</sup> I will crush his foes before him  
 and strike down those who hate him.  
<sup>24</sup> My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be  
 with him;  
 and in my name his horn shall be exalted.  
<sup>25</sup> I will set his hand on the sea  
 and his right hand on the rivers.  
<sup>26</sup> He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,  
 my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"

*A reading from the New Testament –*

**Romans 16: 25 - 27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you  
 according to my gospel and the proclamation  
 of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of  
 the mystery that was kept secret for long  
 ages but is now disclosed, and through the  
 prophetic writings is made known to all the  
 Gentiles, according to the command of the  
 eternal God, to bring about the obedience of  
 faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus  
 Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*A reading from the Gospel –*

**Luke 1: 26 - 38**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 according to St John*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 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.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**