

22 November 2020

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: Rejoice! The Lord is Coming!

Today is the Sunday before Advent: Psalm 98; read it reflectively.

Cantate Domino – Sing to the Lord: the Saviour, the King, the Judge who is coming.

The Lord is the Saviour (v.1-3) and the salvation He has worked by His own power is marvellous: for Israel in the Exodus event; in the cross of Jesus an even greater liberation from sin, Satan and death. No wonder our lives are full of music and joyful singing: a new song – a song of salvation because of God’s love and faithfulness; sufficient for the world. So the whole world is called upon to acknowledge The Lord is King (v. 4-6). Whether people acknowledge Him or not, the Lord is King over all the earth, so the people of God call on all to face reality. The day will come when all will bow down before Him (Philippians 2:10, 11) – better to come joyfully and willingly now, than face Him as Judge then.

The Lord is Judge (v. 7-9). Jesus, the Saviour King, will come as Judge and on that Day the whole creation will be renewed. The natural world longs for that Day – sea, rivers, mountains will shout, clap and sing because it is freed from the bondage of sin and decay (Romans 8:18-25) and share our full salvation as God’s children (C.S. Lewis portrays this beautifully in The Chronicles of Narnia – the whole Creation in Harmony). The Sunday before Advent anticipates the coming Lord – the theme of Advent – and we cry “Come Lord Jesus, come!”

(N.B. The famous Christmas Carol “Joy to the World” by Isaac Watts is based on Psalm 98 and Romans 8:18-25)

Prayer

Lord, fill me each day with joy and hope as I anticipate your return and the renewal of all things. I thrill to think of that Day when the ravages of time and the effects of sin and death will be eliminated, the whole creation gloriously harmonious and I will see you face to face. Stir up within me the daily desire to live for Your glory. Amen.

Remember

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word
- keep in touch with your Christian community at St James: Wednesday 10am; Sunday 9am, 11am, 6pm.

With Christian love,

Robert