



you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

In Baptism, the Christian is born. His old self is buried and the new self emerges. Whether in the case of infants or adults, baptism signifies this more as a promise than as an actually fulfilled fact. The direction is indicated rather than the arrival.

Friedrich REST (1913-1997)

Gospel Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

THE NICENE CREED followed by PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY HYMN # 444 Like a candle flame

The service continues on Page 12 of the Service Booklet

FINAL HYMN # 424 Let all mortal flesh keep silence

SENDING OUT & POSTLUDE

The service is followed by coffee

NOTICES

1. There are still some calendars of Canadian churches to be sold in aid of Church funds at €10 each. They are at the back of the church. Please pay for them in the card's money tin. . Christmas cards are still available.
2. Last chance to sign the list on the notice board if you wish to come to Christmas lunch
3. Our Carol Services this year are on Friday 19th at 18:00 at Grimaud and Sunday 21st at 18:00 at St. John's. Do please come to whichever suits you best and please use the flyers at the back of the church to advertise these services.

Service on Sunday 21st December (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Communion with Tony MONDS

Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:1-25

St. John's Anglican Church, St. Raphaël

117 Avenue Paul Doumer
83700 St. Raphaël

Website: www.sjevar.com

YouTube: @St_Johns_Anglican_Church_Var

A congregation of the Church of England's Diocese in Europe and a member of the World-Wide Anglican Communion.

St. John's is an inclusive congregation and welcomes everyone to worship with us.

Une congrégation de L'Église d'Angleterre dans le Diocèse d'Europe et un membre de la Communion Anglicane Mondiale.

Notre Église est une congrégation inclusive, et tout le monde est bienvenu

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE THIS MORNING

St. John the Baptist in prison visited by two disciples.

Giovanni di Paolo (Italian) (c.1399 - 1482)



Sunday 14th December 2025 Third Sunday of Advent—Year A

Chaplain (Locum)
Warden & Secretary
Warden
Music Director & Vice-Chair
Congregational Worship Leader

Canon. Tony MONDS

Peter OWEN

Bérengrère ROSS

Shirley ROWSON

Alastair ROSS

07 86 05 81 12

04 94 76 17 70

06 60 71 93 54

04 94 76 17 70

COMMUNION SERVICE

NOTICES & MUSICAL PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN # 280 Hail to the Lord's anointed (Omit v. 3)

WELCOME & PRAYER OF PREPARATION

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY See Pew Sheet insert—Advent 3

CONFESSION, KYRIE, ABSOLUTION, (No GLORIA during Advent)

COLLECT PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH (35:1-10)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God

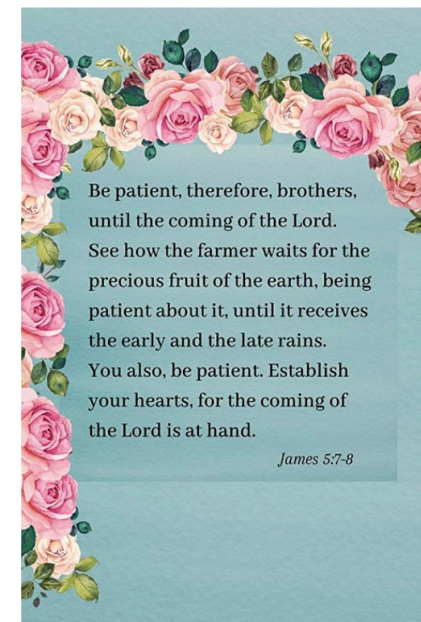
A READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

(5:7-10)

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God



GOSPEL HYMN # 84 Bread of the world in mercy broken

Gospel Reader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Gospel Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW

11:2-11)

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell