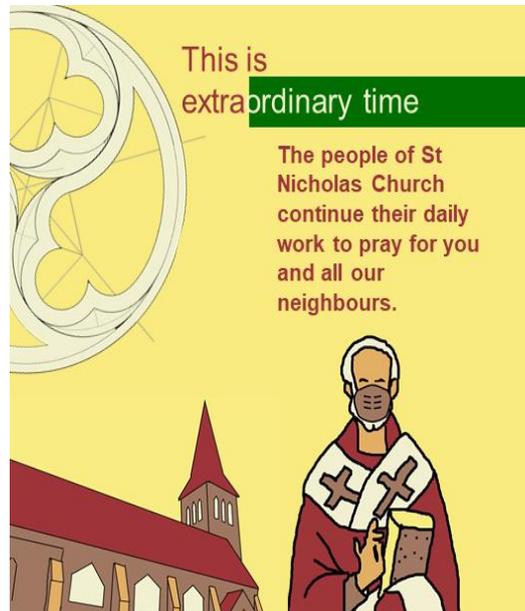


**Worship at St. Nicholas, Sutton  
for Patronal Festival,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, 6 December 2020  
Collect, hymns, readings**



Today we celebrate the feast day of our patron saint, St Nicholas

Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (southern Turkey). His reputation as a worker of wonders was enhanced by the ninth-century author who wrote about his life and he is now best known through these stories.

Many of them concern his love and care for children, how he fed the hungry, healed the sick and cared for the oppressed. He saved three girls from a life of prostitution by providing them with dowries and so developed the tradition of bearing gifts to children on his feast day, a practice appropriated by the Christmas celebrations.

Nicholas is also one of the patron saints of Russia.

**Collect** (prayer of the week)

Almighty Father, lover of souls,  
who chose your servant Nicholas  
to be a bishop in the Church,  
that he might give freely out of the treasures of your grace:  
make us mindful of the needs of others  
and, as we have received, so teach us also to give;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Hymns

Opening *For all the saints*

Gradual *Brother, sister, let me serve you*

## Readings

### 1 John 4.7-21

*God Is Love*

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love\* because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters,\* are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister\* whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters\* also.

### Mark 10.13-16

*Jesus Blesses Little Children*

13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

I encourage you to make a habit of daily prayer, whether *A Way of Daily Prayer* (attached, or on website under Useful Information-Service Sheets);  
Common Worship *Daily Prayer* <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>;  
or *Book of Common Prayer*.

Bible readings for Morning and Evening Prayer:

**Sunday 6 December, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

MP Baruch 5.1-9, Luke 1.5-20

EP 1 Kings 22.1-28, Romans 15.4-13

**Monday 7 December** *Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397*

MP Isaiah 45.14-end, 1 Thessalonians 1

EP Isaiah 30.1-18, Matthew 14.1-12

**Tuesday 8 December** *Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

MP Isaiah 46, 1 Thessalonians 2.1-12

EP Isaiah 30.19-end, Matthew 14.13-end

**Wednesday 9 December** *Ember Day*

MP Isaiah 47, 1 Thessalonians 2.13-end

EP Isaiah 31, Matthew 15.1-20

**Thursday 10 December**

MP Isaiah 48.1-11, 1 Thessalonians 3

EP Isaiah 32, Matthew 15.21-28

**Friday 11 December** *Ember Day*

MP Isaiah 48.12-end, 1 Thessalonians 4.1-12

EP Isaiah 33.1-22, Matthew 15.29-end

**Saturday 12 December** *Ember Day*

MP Isaiah 49.1-13, 1 Thessalonians 4.13-end

EP Isaiah 35, Matthew 16.1-12