



Worship at St. Nicholas, Sutton for All Saints' Day/4th Sunday before Advent on 1 November 2020

Collect, readings & comment on readings

for those unable to attend the 10.30am service in church.

We will be thinking of you all and praying for you
and longing for our future reunion in Church.

Frances

Revd Frances Arnold, Priest-in-Charge

Collect (prayer of the week)

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living,
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings

Revelation 7.9-end *The Multitude from Every Nation*

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹²singing,

‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honour

and power and might

be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ ¹⁴I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in

the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

1 John 3.1-3 *Children of God*

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Matthew 5.1-12 *The Beatitudes*

⁵When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Comment on the gospel

All Saints' Day challenges us to think more deeply about what it is like to live as God's saint. This week's readings assure us that all who claim and trust in the promises of God are blessed.

What Jesus says (in our reading from Matthew's gospel) about those who are blessed by God

likely surprised and shocked those who heard it: God's blessings come to those who are ignored by society, those who are viewed as outcasts and those who are willing to work for what God values. Jesus' words call us and all the saints to look forward to the time when God's promises will be fulfilled. As we look to the future the obstacles to faith become smaller, the path easier to follow.

The writer of the first letter of John proclaims that it is God's love that makes one a child of God and calls upon us to claim this identity with hope and faith.

The vision presented in our reading from the book of Revelation is of multitudes from every nation – including those who have suffered in their faith – coming to live in God's reign.

Today we remember the saints who have gone before us – those men and women, like St Nicholas, who gave their lives to God. We remember the continuity of the church's worship and witness. We are united with the saints in that unending song of praise to God. We give thanks for the blessings God has given us.

And we can learn from the saints in the way that they shared the good news of God's saving love in all sorts of difficult situations.

What might we do as individuals and the church to welcome all people to live in God's promise?

The sermon for Sunday 1 November will be available in paper copy and online soon after the service takes place.

I encourage you to make a habit of daily prayer, whether *A Way of Daily Prayer* (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 1 November All Saints' Day

MP Isaiah 35, Luke 9.18-27

EP Luke 65.17-end, Hebrews 11.32-12.2

Monday 2 November *Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)*

MP Daniel 1, Revelation 1

EP Isaiah 1.1-20, Matthew 1.18-end

Tuesday 3 November *Richard Hooker, priest, teacher of the faith, 1600*

MP Daniel 2.1-24, Revelation 2.1-11

EP Isaiah 1.21-end, Matthew 2.1-15

Wednesday 4 November

MP Daniel 2.25-end, Revelation 2.12-end

EP Isaiah 2.1-11, Matthew 2.16-end

Thursday 5 November

MP Daniel 3.1-18, Revelation 3.1-13

EP Isaiah 2.12-end, Matthew 3

Friday 6 November

MP Daniel 3.19-end, Revelation 3.14-end

EP Isaiah 3.1-15, Matthew 4.1-11

Saturday 7 November *Willibrord, bishop, 739*

MP Daniel 4.1-18, Revelation 4

EP Isaiah 4.2-5.7, Matthew 4.12-22