

# Second Sunday of Advent

## 7th December 2025



The water that I will give him will become a spring of water within him welling up to eternal life.  
JOHN 4:14

This Sunday's Gospel reading shows a change from preparing for the Second Coming to preparing to consider the significance of his initial visit. John the Baptist's message spoke of the dramatic coming of God in the person of Jesus, the presence of God with us in human form. In this season of Advent, we are called on to remember Jesus' first coming and to prepare for Jesus' Second Coming. In order to prepare for the Second Coming, we have to repent.

John the Baptist's message has two points. First, we have to have a change of heart and repent of our sins because God is coming. Second, our actions have to reflect genuine, changed hearts. The coming of Christ leads to forthcoming judgment and, subsequently, good things.

Repentance also means changing our attitude and changing the way we treat others. If we are truly repentant, our words will be reflected in our deeds. True repentance will lead to peace in our hearts and souls.

John the Baptist's message of repentance is both good news and bad news. It proclaims that God's reign over heaven and earth has come to us. It is time for us to think about our lives in a new way. We can prepare for the kingdom by simplifying our lives. We need to slow down. This can be hard to do in our fast-paced world, especially at this time of year when there are so many gifts to buy, so many Christmas events to attend and so many family members and friends to visit. We need to make time for worship. We need to make time to be encompassed by the Holy Spirit so we can appreciate the true meaning of the season.

Repent, for the kingdom of God is close at hand.

Matthew 3



O God,

As light comes from this candle, may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us, warming our hearts and brightening our way.

May Christ, our Saviour bring life into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for his coming.

Amen.

In addition, this week let us pray for:

- ♦ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning;
- ♦ all those affected by the ongoing war;
- ♦ our preparations for the coming of Christ.



Heavenly Father, You are the God who gives peace.

This second week of Advent causes us to remember that because of Jesus we can experience a Christmas free from turmoil and chaos. Regardless of our circumstances or our situations, you offer us peace that passes understanding.

Amen