**Sunnyside Church**

**Wednesday morning at 9.30 on 9 December 2020.**

**Readings**

***Psalm 62***

***Isaiah 9:6***

***Isaiah 6:1-8 and 11:1-5***

*Some reflections on these passages.*

***“Mighty God” – Isaiah 9:6***

*\*I expect that many of us have had visions and experiences of the wonder and majesty of God. For some of us this has led to a major change in our lives. The Prophet Isaiah had such an experience in the temple in Jerusalem. It is recorded in Isaiah 6, a vision of the Lord’s greatness and holiness which leads to Isaiah feeling unworthy. Isaiah in the vision sees the Lord’s forgiveness for him, and hears God’s call to go and speak to a people who did not want to hear.*

*\*Behind the words in Isaiah 9 and elsewhere in Isaiah’s prophetic ministry is the hope that there will be a king on the throne who would rule in a godly and wise way. Even though they had good kings like Hezekiah this hope was never fulfilled.*

*\*We see the fulfilment of these words in the coming of Christ. He is the “Mighty God” who comes from the stump of Jesse (Is 11:1) (Jesse was David’s father), on whom the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit rest, the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge, fear of the Lord, delight in the fear of the Lord.*

*\*Isaiah would not have understood the full meaning of these words which God had given to him, but we can see them in a great way especially in the readings we often use in carol services at Christmastime. The climax of the readings at many carol services is the reading from John’s gospel “The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we gazed upon his glory as of the only one from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Christ is indeed the “Might God” who has come amongst us.*

*Collect for Advent*

Almighty God give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light

now and in the time of this mortal life

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility

that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead

we may rise to the life immortal

through him who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit One God, now and for ever. Amen

*An Advent Prayer*

O Lord our God

make us watchful and keep us faithful

as we await the coming

of your Son our Lord

that, when he shall appear

he may not find us sleeping in sin

but active in his servicer

and joyful in his praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Intercessions**

The Church

 that we may be ready for the coming of Christ

 the leaders of the Church

 for Sunnyside and Bourne End church as cope with the effects of the virus, plan Christmas and the future. For our Vicar Rebecca, the Staff team and all in positions of leadership and responsibility.

 For the churches in places where there are difficulties of conflict, and poverty.

The Government as they plan the future arrangements to combat the virus, administration of the vaccine, and the future relationship with Europe.

All in medical and caring professions with the extra load and problems because of the virus

All involved in the life of schools, colleges, and universities

For all who live in the parish especially those living in Hunters Park and Brackenhill

For those who have been affected by the virus, especially Rebecca and Jo.

For Dick and Sheila’s daughter Karen and the rest of her family

Foe those whom are in need of God’s healing and who need our support, and those for whom the onset of winter brings particular difficulties.

 *John Kirkby*