



Advent 1

from Palestine
to the Food Pantry

'Filling the hungry with good things'
from Luke 1:39-56

alongside Matthew 24:36-44



Advent 2

from Palestine
to the Food Pantry

'Filling the hungry with good things'
from Luke 1:39-56

alongside Matthew 3:1-12



Advent 3

from Palestine
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'Filling the hungry with good things'
from Luke 1:39-56

alongside Matthew 11:2-11



Advent 4 from Palestine to the Food Pantry

'Filling the hungry with good things'
from Luke 1:39-56

alongside Matthew 1:18-25

'Filling the hungry with good things' from Luke 1:39-56
alongside Matthew 24:36-44



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Luke 1:39-56

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Mary Visits Elizabeth

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Footnote

e. 1.45 Or *believed, for there will be*

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on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
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"He has *filled* the hungry with *good* things"

Luke 1:53

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Matthew 24:36-44

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The Necessity for Watchfulness

³⁶ “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son,^[a] but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man.

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Footnote

a. 24.36 Other ancient authorities lack *nor the Son*

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From Palestine to the Food Pantry,
how are we unprepared for Jesus?

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What needs to be, or might be, swept away – and how do we feel about it?

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⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day^[b] your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

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How are divisions a part of life today, and how will divisions in God's future differ from these?

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We are told that we MUST be ready, so how do we go about that in our society and in the whole world?

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#MemberFeedback
"It's taking the stress off managing on a budget and knowing I can feed my family has helped my mental health"

Your Local PANTRY
Member from Broomhouse Pantry, Edinburgh

The Methodist Church

The role of Food Pantries in the cost of living crisis: A conversation with James Henderson from Church Action on Poverty: 7-8pm, Tuesday 22nd November, 2022

"Pantries are all about dignity, choice and hope."



LCBC ECO MARKET

What is the LCBC Eco Market?

The Eco Market (previously known as LCBC Community Pantry) is a small 'store' open to **ALL** members of the community and aimed at reducing food, non-food and plastic waste whilst helping everyone to save money.

By helping change mindsets over using surplus foods, we not only hope to reduce perfectly edible food going to landfill and impacting our beautiful planet, but also help to reduce household expenditure on food.

We have decided to change the name to coincide with our new venue, to recognise that this is a surplus food project, and to reflect on our environmental ethos to encourage people to 'shop' ethically.

LCBC ECO MARKET



BISHOP AUCKLAND GREEN FAIR

WELLBEING

COMMUNITY

ENVIRONMENT

FREE ENTRY

Joanne from
Little Chefs Big Chefs

ALL AGE ACTIVITIES

FOOD STALLS AND WORKSHOPS

TRANSPORT

WILDLIFE

FOOD GROWING

UPCYCLING

MINDFULNESS

ENERGY SAVING

FAIR TRADE

CLIMATE

SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

METHODIST CHURCH
COCKTON HILL
10 AM - 4 PM



BISHOP AUCKLAND GREEN FAIR

LCBC ECO MARKET

Advent 2

from Palestine
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Matthew 3:1-12

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The Proclamation of John the Baptist

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”^[a] ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

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Footnote

a. 3.2 Or *is at hand*

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⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his^[b] baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

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Unlike the Pharisees and Sadducees,
how do we bear fruit worthy of
repentance?

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¹¹ “I baptize you with^[c] water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with^[d] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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Footnotes

c. 3.11 Or *in* d. 3.11 Or *in*

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With the Food Pantry in mind, who will be gathered into the granary, and who will burn?

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Messengers from John the Baptist

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah^[a] was doing, he sent word by his^[b] disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

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Do we have doubts, and if so, what do we need to hear and see again to believe?

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Are we to wait for another, or is it our challenge to be the Messiah’s hands and feet this advent,

and how?

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Jesus Praises John the Baptist

⁷ 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? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone^[c] dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet?^[d] Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ 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.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell 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.

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- c. 11.8 Or *Why, then, did you go out? To see someone*
- d. 11.9 Other ancient authorities read *Why, then, did you go out? To see a prophet?*

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What does a prophet look like today, and would we go to find them?

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Jesus Praises John the Baptist

⁷ 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? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone^[c] dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. For all that is written,

How did John prepare the way and prepare people? How can we?

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell 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.

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Footnotes

- c. 11.8 Or *Why, then, did you go out? To see someone*
- d. 11.9 Other ancient authorities read *Why, then, did you go out? To see a prophet?*



Advent 4 from Palestine to the Food Pantry

'Filling the hungry with good things'
from Luke 1:39-56

alongside Matthew 1:18-25

Advent 4

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Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be^[e] a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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Footnote

e. 1.45 Or *believed, for there will be*

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Mary's Song of Praise

⁴⁶ And Mary^[f] said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour

on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;

⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud

in the imagination of their hearts.

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Footnote

f. 1.46 Other ancient authorities read *Elizabeth*

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Luke 1:39-56

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Mary's Song of Praise

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and
then returned to her home.

"He has *filled* the hungry with *good* things"

Luke 1:53

Advent 4

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to the Food Pantry

Matthew 11:2-11

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The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

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Footnote

a. 1.18 Or *Jesus Christ*

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Matthew 11:2-11

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In what ways can we be open to dreams and angels this advent, and ready to change our view of things?

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²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son,^[b] and he named him Jesus.

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Footnote

b. 1.25 Other ancient authorities read *her firstborn son*

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Matthew 11:2-11

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God is with us – in the darkest of times what evidence do we have for this?

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Prayers of intercession from the margins

Deacon Lemia Nkwelah

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

Gracious God, we boldly approach your throne of grace with joy as **we wait for the birth of Baby Jesus**. You are the source of all that we are. You know our pain, and you stand with us in all our sorrows and troubles.

Even as **we wait** you heal every wound; you comfort every crushed soul; you are the end to our suffering; you restore lost hope. You right every wrong, you bring favour to your lowly and suffering servants. Our souls find joy in your greatness.

Ever-present God, as **we wait** in troubled times you never leave nor forsake. You will not abandon. You are before us; you are with us; you are ahead of us; leading, guiding and watching over us.

In those times when we cannot find ourselves, you are there! Our pillar of cloud by day to guide us, our pillar of fire by night to give us light.



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As we wait, we are your hands and feet making us partners with you in the Gospel work. We are witnesses to your story in which you have restored the lives of many. We are in the business of demonstrating your compassion so that hearts may be turned, and souls may be won for the glory of your Kingdom.

Redeemer, God we are in the time in which we prepare to celebrate the birth of your precious gift to us. Like Mary, we are the bearers of your good news, preparing the way for your coming so that many may come to know you and with us be called your children. May your promises be fulfilled, and your peace, your comfort be felt in those who struggle. We are living in a dark world in which we seek your light that transforms. The world in its weakness awaits in hope and expectation for your arrival.



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