



Welcome

The First Sunday of Advent

1 December



actorschurch



St. Paul's Covent Garden

Please switch off all mobile phones.

BEWARE: *We do occasionally suffer from theft: take care of your belongings*

Accessibility

Large Print versions of the Order of Service are available.

Gluten free wafers are available.

Hearing loop installed; collect a receiver from the back of church.

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We stand as the Altar Party enters and sing the hymn

**Lo, he comes with clouds
descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign.**

**2 Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold
him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.**

**3 Those dear tokens of his Passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**4 Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
alleluia!
thou shalt reign, and thou alone.**

The Priest goes to the Lectern and says:

Priest In the name of the Father, and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

*The Priest introduces the service and then invites
the children to join him for the lighting of the
third Advent candle. We then say together:*

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are
hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy
name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

*The priest invites the congregation to seek God's
mercy and grace. We sing together:*

**Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us,
Lord have mercy upon us**

*The Priest announces the **Absolution** to which
all reply: **Amen.***

*The prayer of the day – the **Collect** – is said*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away
the works of darkness and to put on the
armour of light, now 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.

*We sit for the **first** and **second readings.***

First Reading

Jeremiah 33.14-16, read by Tom

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the
LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I
made to the house of Israel and the house
of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I
will cause a righteous Branch to spring up
for David; and he shall execute justice and
righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days
Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live

in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

I Thessalonians 3.9-13, read by Tom

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God

*We stand to sing the **hymn** and turn towards the Gospel book*

**The Lord will come and not be slow,
his footsteps cannot err;
before him righteousness shall go,
his royal harbinger.**

**2 Truth from the earth, like to a
flower,
shall bud and blossom then;
and justice, from her heavenly
bower,
look down on mortal men.**

**3 Rise, God, judge thou the earth in
might,
this wicked earth redress;
for thou art he who shalt by right
the nations all possess.**

**4 The nations all whom thou hast
made
shall come, and all shall frame
to bow them low before thee, Lord,
and glorify thy name.**

**5 For great thou art, and wonders
great
by thy strong hand are done:
thou in thy everlasting seat
remainest God alone.**

*All remain standing (if able) as the **Gospel** is
read*

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Priest Hear the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to
Luke (21, 25-36)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: ²⁵'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

²⁹Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that

the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, ³⁵and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Priest This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

*We sit for the **Sermon***

*We stand to say the **Creed***

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen
We believe in One Lord Jesus Christ
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and
the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world to
come. Amen.**

*The **Prayers of Intercession** follow*

At the end:

Priest Merciful Father,
**All accept these prayers for
the sake of your Son, our
Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Amen.**

*The Priest introduces the **Peace**:*

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with
you always
All And also with you
Priest Let us offer one another a
sign of peace.

*We sing a **hymn** as the Altar is prepared for
the **Eucharistic Prayer**. A **collection** is taken
during the **hymn**, but you may also donate using
the card reader at the back of church.*

**1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding;
“Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
“Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!”**

**2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.**

**3 Lo, the lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from
heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;**

**4 that when next he comes with
glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.**

**5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.**

Priest Blessed are you Lord God of
all creation. Through your
goodness we have this bread
to offer which earth has given
and human hands have made.
It will become for us the
bread of life

All Blessed be God for ever
Priest Blessed are you Lord God of
all creation. Through your
goodness we have this wine
to offer. Fruit of the vine and
work of human hands, it will
become our spiritual drink

All Blessed be God for ever
Priest Pray my sisters and brothers
that our sacrifice may be
acceptable to God the
Almighty Father

**All May the Lord accept the
sacrifice at your hand, for
the praise and glory of his
name, for our good and
the good of all his Church.**

*The Priest adds the prayer over the gifts to which
we reply **Amen***

Priest The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.

**All It is right to give thanks
and praise...**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues until we sing
the **Sanctus** and **Benedictus** from the music
sheet. The **Eucharistic Prayer** continues
until...*

Priest Great is the mystery of faith

**All: Dying, you destroyed our death
Rising you restored our life
Lord Jesus, come in glory**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until

Priest ...for ever and ever

All: Amen

Priest: As our Saviour taught us, so
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass
against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom
The power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen**

Priest We break this bread to share
in the body of Christ

**All Though we are many we
are one body, because we
all share in one bread**

We sing the **Agnus Dei** from the music sheet.

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God who
takes away the sin of the
world, blessed are those who
are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to
receive you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

*The congregation approaches the Altar step to
receive **Communion**.*

*All those who are in good standing with their
own Church are invited to receive Communion.
Those who prefer to ask for a Blessing are
invited to bow their heads at the Altar rail, or
bring this booklet as a sign to the Priest.*

**Please make your way to the
Altar.**

**Please receive Communion in
your hand ONLY. If you wish to
receive the Chalice, please
remain in place, if not, return to
your pew**

**Please keep absolute silence
during Communion**

*During Communion, Susan will be performing
her latest song **Living Water** based on three
women from scripture: the Samaritan
Woman, Hagar and Rachel who, as a result
of their respective visits to water wells, all
experience transformation in their lives. Susan
wrote this song for an evening of Music &
Poetry at her home church, St Mary's
in Upper Street, NI.*

*With a previous career as an actor, Susan
now works directing and teaching alongside
her singing and songwriting. She is delighted
to have the opportunity to be performing at
the Actor's Church. You can follow Woman
Angel on Instagram: **woman_angel_music**
or Email: hello@womanangel.co.uk*

Post Communion Prayers:

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 service and joyful in his
praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

We say together:

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son
Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you our souls
and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Any Banns of marriage and notices are given.

Priest The Lord be with you

All And also with you

*The **Blessing** is given to which all reply: **Amen***

*We sing the **hymn** and turn to face the West
End for the **dismissal***

**I Colours of day dawn into the mind,
The sun has come up, the night is
behind.**

**Go down in the city, into the street,
And let's give the message to the
people we meet.**

**Refrain: So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.**

**2 Go through the park, on into the town;
The sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
The people of darkness are needing a friend.
Refrain**

**3 Open your eyes, look into the sky,
The darkness has come, the Son came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.**

Refrain

**Priest: Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord**

All Thanks be to God.

‘What’s On’ this week

Tonight

7.30pm A Musical Theatre Christmas **

Monday 2 December

6.30pm Black is King and King is a woman – *free admission*

Tuesday 3 December

5pm Carols and Stars,
Theatre Chaplaincy UK carol service, *free admission all welcome*

Wednesday 4 December

1.10pm Holy Eucharist
1.45pm Tea and Cake
6.30pm UK Film and TV Charity Carol Concert **

Thursday 5 December

11am Baby Gospel – *sold out*
7pm TFL Carol Service **

Friday 6 December

6pm The Royal Theatrical Fund Christmas Carol Service **

Saturday 7 December

12.30pm A Choral Christmas – *sold out*
6.30pm & 8.30pm Musicals by Candlelight **

Sunday 8 December

**11.00am Parish Sung Eucharist,
*for the Second Sunday in Advent***

6pm Advent Carol Service, *with the choir of St. Paul’s, free admission,
followed by mince pies.*

****Tickets for all paid events may be obtained from www.actorschurch.org**