



Welcome

The Third Sunday in Advent

15 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

**Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou mayest smile at all thy foes.**

**2 See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage:
grace which, like the Lord the giver,
never fails from age to age?**

**3 Saviour, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.**

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 candle of the Advent wreath. 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*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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

First Reading

Zephaniah 3.14-20 read by James

Sing, O Daughter of Zion;

shout aloud, O Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,

O Daughter of Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy.

The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

On that day they will say to Jerusalem,

“Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands hang limp.
The LORD your God is with you,
he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you,
he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing.”
“The sorrows for the appointed feasts
I will remove from you; they are a burden
and a reproach to you.
At that time I will deal with all who
oppressed you; I will rescue the lame
and gather those who have been
scattered.
I will give them praise and honour
in every land where they were put to
shame.
At that time I will gather you; at that time
I will bring you home.
I will give you honour and praise
among all the peoples of the earth
when I restore your fortunes
before your very eyes,”
says the LORD.
At the end:
Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 4.4-7, read by Carol

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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*

**I Teach me, my God and King,
in all things thee to see;
and what I do in anything
to do it as for thee.**

**2 A man that looks on glass,
on it may stay his eye;
or, if he pleaseth, through it pass,
and then the heaven espy.**

**3 All may of thee partake;
nothing can be so mean
which, with this tincture, “for thy
sake,”
will not grow bright and clean.**

**4 A servant with this clause
makes drudgery divine;
who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
makes that and the action fine.**

**5 This is the famous stone
that turneth all to gold;
for that which God doth touch and
own
cannot for less be told.**

All remain standing 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 (3, 7-18)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not

produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.”

Tax collectors also came to be baptised. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.”

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, “I baptise you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

At the end:

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 from 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***

1 Rejoice! the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing;
and triumph evermore:
lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

2 Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:
Lift up your heart, etc.

3 His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, etc.

4 He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:
Lift up your heart, etc.

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 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.*

*We remain seated to sing the **hymn**
**Sing we the praises of the great
forerunner,
tell forth the mighty wonders of his
story:
so may his Master cleanse our lips
and make them
fit to extol him.***

**2 Lo, God's high herald, swift from
heaven descending,
gives to thy father tidings of thy
coming,
telling thy name and all the tale of
marvels
that shall befall thee.**

**3 Oft had the prophets in the time
before thee
spoken in vision of the Daystar's
coming;
but when he came, 'twas thou that
didst proclaim him
Saviour of all men.**

Post Communion Prayers:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these
heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your
Spirit that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.
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 Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!**

**2 Thou, who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
let there be light!**

**3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!**

**4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
wisdom, love, might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide
let there be light!**

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve
 the Lord
All Thanks be to God.

Tuesday 24 December

CHRISTMAS EVE

**11pm The Midnight Mass of
Christmas, *followed by mulled wine***

Wednesday 25 December

CHRISTMAS DAY

**11am Parish Mass for Christmas
Day, *followed by fizz***

‘What’s On’ this week

Today

3pm Nine Lessons and Carols, *all welcome*

7.30pm MXM Christmas Concert **

Monday 16 December

6.30pm Meningitis Now Carol Service (*private event*)

Tuesday 17 December

11.00 Funeral of the late Adam Taylor RIP

2pm Funeral of the late Jo Weir RIP

7pm Food Chain Carol Service – *all welcome*

Wednesday 18 December

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

1.45pm Tea and Cake - *all welcome*

7pm Musical Theatre Sing-a-long **

Thursday 19 December

1pm Uncovered Opera Christmas Concert

4.30pm, 6.30pm & 8.30pm Christmas by Candlelight **

Friday 20 December

11.00am Baby Broadway - *sold out*

4.30pm, 6.30pm & 8.30pm Christmas by Candlelight **

Saturday 21 December

4.30pm, 6.30pm & 8.30pm Christmas by Candlelight **

Sunday 22 December

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11.00 Sung Eucharist

4.30pm, 6.30pm & 8.30pm Christmas by Candlelight **

***Tickets for all paid events at St. Paul’s can be obtained via our website*

www.actorschurch.org