



Welcome

The Second Sunday before Advent

16 November



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

**Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
sun of righteousness arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
dayspring from on high, be near,
daystar, in my heart appear.**

**2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**3 Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.**

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 leads
the congregation in prayer:*

**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 say together:*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus
Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

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

*We sing the **Gloria**, which you will find on the
separate music sheet.*

*The prayer of the day – the **Collect** – is sung*
Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and
heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having
this hope, may purify ourselves even as he
is pure; that when he shall appear in
power and great glory we may be made
like him in his eternal and glorious
kingdom; where he 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

Malachi 4.1-2a, read by Andrea

¹See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

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

Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 3.6-13, read by Andrea

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, labouring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busy-bodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right.

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*

**Christ is our corner-stone,
on him alone we build;
with his true saints alone
the courts of heaven are filled:
on his great love
our hopes we place
of present grace
and joys above.**

**2 O then with hymns of praise
these hallowed courts shall ring;
our voices we will raise
the three in one to sing;
and thus proclaim
in joyful song,
both loud and long,
that glorious name.**

**3 Here, gracious God, do thou
for evermore draw nigh;
accept each faithful vow,
and mark each suppliant sigh;
in copious shower
on all who pray
each holy day
thy blessings pour.**

**4 Here may we gain from heaven
the grace which we implore;
and may that grace, once given,
be with us evermore,
until that day
when all the blest
to endless rest
are called away.**

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*
(25, 5-19)

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, ⁶‘As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.’

⁷They asked him, ‘Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?’ ⁸And Jesus said, ‘Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and, “The time is near!” Do not go after them.

⁹When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.’ ¹⁰Then he said to them, ‘Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.’

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 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**. You may prefer to donate by
card, at the back of church*

**Immortal Love for ever full,
for ever flowing free,
for ever shared, for ever whole,
a never-ebbing sea!**

**2 Our outward lips confess the name
all other names above;
love only knoweth whence it came
and comprehendeth love.**

**3 We may not climb the heavenly
steeps
to bring the Lord Christ down;
in vain we search the lowest deeps,
for him no depths can drown:**

**4 But warm, sweet, tender, even yet
a present help is he;
and faith has still its Olivet,
and love its Galilee.**

**5 Alone, O Love ineffable,
thy saving name is given;
to turn aside from thee is hell,
to walk with thee is heaven.**

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
separate music sheet.*

*The **Eucharistic Prayer** continues until...*

Priest: Great is the mystery of faith
All: **Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until

Priest ...for ever and ever
All: Amen

The Priest invites us to say:

**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 **separate
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 steps 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.*

Post Communion Prayers:

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last to that fullness of life
for which we long; through Jesus Christ
our Saviour. **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***

**Light's abode, celestial Salem,
vision whence true peace doth
spring,
brighter than the heart can fancy,
mansion of the highest King;
O how glorious are the praises
which of thee the prophets sing!**

**2 There for ever and for ever
alleluia is outpoured;
for unending, for unbroken
is the feast-day of the Lord;
all is pure and all is holy
that within thy walls is stored.**

3 There no cloud or passing vapour
dims the brightness of the air;
endless noon-day, glorious noon-day,
from the sun of suns is there;
there no night brings rest from
labour,
for unknown are toil and care.

4 O how glorious and resplendent,
fragile body, shalt thou be,
when endued with so much beauty,
full of health and strong and free,
full of vigour, full of pleasure
that shall last eternally!

5 Now with gladness, now with
courage,
bear the burden on thee laid,
that hereafter these thy labours
may with endless gifts be paid;
and in everlasting glory
thou with brightness be arrayed.

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

‘WHAT’S ON’ THIS WEEK

Monday 17 November

10.00 Community Art Club – *all welcome*

Tuesday 18 November

5.30pm Tuesday@actorschurch – *all welcome*

Wednesday 19 November

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

1.45pm Tea and Cake – *all welcome*

Thursday 20 November

7.30pm Snowman and Friends Concert **

Friday 21 November

1pm Lunchtime Concert

6.30pm & 8.30pm Musicals by Candlelight **

Saturday 22 November

6pm & 8pm Musicals by Candlelight **

Sunday 26 January 2025

11.00 Parish Sung Eucharist, for the Feast of Christ the King

5pm Mater Harmonia **

*** Tickets for all paid events may be obtained from*

www.actorschurch.org