



Welcome

The First Sunday of Advent

30 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

**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 Blessing of the
Advent Wreath and the lighting of the First
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 the Kyrie, which you
will find on **the separate music sheet**.*

**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

Isaiah 2.1-5, read by Tom

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw
concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days the mountain of the
LORD'S temple will be established

as chief among the mountains; it will be

raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.
 Many peoples will come and say,
 "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."
 The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
 He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks.
 Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more.
 Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD."
At the end:
 Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 13.11-14, read by Jennifer

¹¹Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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*

**Hark! A herald voice is calling;
 "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 "Cast away the dreams of darkness,
 O ye children of the day."**

**2 Startled at the solemn warning,
 let the earth-bound soul arise;
 Christ, her sun, all sloth 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 so when next he comes in glory,
 wrapping all the earth in fear,
 may he then as our defender
 on the clouds of heaven appear.**

**5 Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
 to the Father and the Son,
 with the co-eternal Spirit,
 while unending ages run. Amen.**

*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
 Matthew (24, 36-44)

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**
 Jesus said: "No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the

coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

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.*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
that into exile drear is gone
far from the face of God's dear Son.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**2 O come, thou branch of Jesse!
Draw
the quarry from the lion's claw;
from the dread cavern of the grave,
from nether hell, thy people save.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...**

**3 O come, O come, thou dayspring
bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
dispel the long night's lingering
gloom,
and pierce the shadows of the tomb.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...**

**4 O come, thou Lord of David's key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
safeguard for us the heavenward
road,
and bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...**

**5 O come, O come, Adonai,
who in thy glorious majesty
from that high mountain clothed
with awe
gavest thy folk the elder law.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...**

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

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.*

*We remain seated to sing the **hymn***

**Hark the glad sound! the Saviour
comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.**

**2 He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**

**3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.**

**4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.**

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

Monday 1 December

10.00 Please note that the church is closed this evening for a private event

Tuesday 2 December

5pm Carols and Stars:

Theatre Chaplaincy UK carol service - *all welcome*

Wednesday 3 December

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

Thursday 4 December

11am Baby Gospel *** (apply for returns)*

7pm TFL Festival of Carols *** (apply for returns)*

Friday 5 December

1pm ROM Theatre Arts Christmas Carol Concert ****

6pm The Royal Theatrical Fund Christmas Carol Service ****

Sunday 7 December

11.00am Parish Sung Eucharist,

for the Second Sunday in Advent

2pm A Christmas Carol Extravaganza *** (apply for returns)*

7pm A Ceremony of Carols ****

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