



Welcome

Second Sunday in Advent

7 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

**1 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.**

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
second 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, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us, and with great might
succour us; that whereas, through our sins
and wickedness we are grievously
hindered in running the race that is set
before us, your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us; through
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom
with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour
and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

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

First Reading

Isaiah 11.1-10, read by Amanda

A shoot will come up from the stump of
Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear
fruit.

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him –
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of
the LORD –

and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash round his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

At the end:

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

Second Reading

Romans 15.4-13, read by Richard

Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth

you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name."

Again, it says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples."

And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 Lord, thy word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth
light and joy receiveth.**

**2 When our foes are near us,
then thy word doth cheer us,
word of consolation,
message of salvation.**

**3 When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth.**

**4 Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by thy word imparted
to the simple-hearted?**

**5 Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying!**

**6 O that we discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee.**

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
Matthew (3, 1-12)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

²‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ³This 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.”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His 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.’

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*

**I On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**2 Then cleansed be every breast
from sin;
make straight the way for God
within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may
come.**

**3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**4 To heal the sick stretch out thine
hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once
more.**

**5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.**

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***

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

Post Communion Prayers:

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to
redeem the world and will send him again
to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate
him in the humility and purity of his first
coming that, when he comes again, we
may be ready to greet him with joyful love
and firm faith; 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***

**1 Hail to the Lord's anointed!
Great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to let the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

**2 He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.**

**3 Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.**

**4 O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever;
that name to us is Love.**

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve
 the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

‘What’s On’ this week

Today

2pm & 7pm New London Singers Concert **

Monday 8 December

1pm Laine Theatre Arts Christmas Concert – *sold out*

6.30pm Covent Garden Community Association Carol Service – *all welcome*

Tuesday 9 December

7pm Mace Foundation Christmas Carol Service **

Wednesday 10 December

11am Baby Gospel **

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

6.30pm Film and TV Charity Christmas Carol Service **

Thursday 11 December

11am Baby Broadway **

7.30pm Tom and Ben Walters Christmas Concert **

Friday 12 December

11am Baby Broadway **

1pm Funeral of the late Jill Freud RIP

7.30pm Vasari Singers Christmas Concert **

Saturday 13 December

12.30pm Olympic Choir Concert – *sold out*

4pm, 6pm & 8pm Christmas by Candlelight **

Sunday 14 December

11.00 Sung Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Advent

6pm Advent Carol Service, *with the choir of St. Paul’s – all welcome*

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

www.actorschurch.org