



Welcome

The Second Sunday of Epiphany 18 January 2026



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

**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 He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains
shall peace the herald go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.**

**4 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.**

**5 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.**

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**. The **Gloria** is sung from the
separate music sheet.*

*The prayer of the day – the **Collect** – is sung.*

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 49.1-7, read by Margaret

Listen to me, you islands;
hear this, you distant nations:
Before I was born the LORD called me;
from my birth he has made mention of my name.

He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendour."

But I said, "I have laboured to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing.

Yet what is due to me is in the LORD'S hand, and my reward is with my God."

And now the LORD says –
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself,
for I am honoured in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength – he says:

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

This is what the LORD says – the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel –

to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers:
"Kings will see you and rise up,
princes will see and bow down,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1.1-9, read by Arabella

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way – in all your speaking and in all your knowledge – because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

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*

**Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea
Day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying, "Christian, follow me;"**

**2 As of old Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and
kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.**

**3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."**

**4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
that we love him more than these.**

**5 Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Saviour, make us hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.**

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 (1, 29-42)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptising with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have

known him, except that the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning round, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

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***

**1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.**

**2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
prophet, priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding-guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.**

**3 Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.**

**4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
mirrored in thy holy word;
may we imitate thee now,
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we like to thee may be
at thy great Epiphany;
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.**

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
Priest **Blessed be God for ever**
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
Priest **Blessed be God for ever**
Pray my friends 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
Priest **And also with you.**
Priest Lift up your hearts.
All
Priest **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
Sanctus and Benedictus from the 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

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

The Agnus Dei is sung 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

I just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to
thee,
O lamb of God, I come.

**2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O lamb of God, I come.**

**3 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O lamb of God, I come.**

**4 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve:
because thy promise I believe,
O lamb of God, I come.**

**5 Just as I am (thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down),
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O lamb of God, I come.**

**6 Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and
height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O lamb of God, I come.**

Post Communion Prayers:

God of glory, you nourish us with your
Word who is the bread of life: fill us with
your Holy Spirit that through us the light
of your glory may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of 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.

and then the Priest says:

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***

**Ye servants of God, your Master
proclaim,**

**and publish abroad his wonderful
name;**

**the name all-victorious of Jesus
extol:**

**his kingdom is glorious, and rules
over all.**

**2 God ruleth on high, almighty to
save;
and still he is nigh: his presence we
have.**

**The great congregation his triumph
shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.**

**3 Salvation to God who sits on the
throne!**

**Let all cry aloud, and honour the
Son.**

**The praises of Jesus the angels
proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship
the lamb.**

**4 Then let us adore, and give him his
right:**

**all glory and power, all wisdom and
might,
and honour and blessing, with angels
above,
and thanks never-ceasing, and
infinite love.**

Priest. Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord

All Thanks be to God

‘What’s On’ this week

Monday 19 January

10.00 Art Club – *all welcome*

Wednesday 21 January

9.30am School Eucharist

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

1.45pm Tea and Cake – *all welcome*

7pm PCC Meeting

Thursday 22 January

10.00 Baby Broadway **

Friday 23 January

6pm & 8pm Musicals by Candlelight **

Saturday 24 January

6.30pm & 8.30pm Musicals by Candlelight **

Sunday 25 January

The Conversion of St. Paul

11.00 Sung Eucharist, followed by fizz!

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