



St Stephen with St John Westminster

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Today:

10:00am Parish Eucharist
6:00pm Evensong

Weekly Notes

6th December 2020

(The Second Sunday Advent)

Morning & Evening Prayer are said Monday to Friday, 9.15am & 6.00pm

Silent Hour on Tuesdays at 5pm

BCP Wednesdays at 12:30pm.

Tea@3 on Thursdays. Please do join us and our friends from St Barnabas via Zoom
[Meeting ID: 876 875 6365](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85248233035) Password: 657351

Today we will be speaking to our weekday verger, Andrew Crawford.

Tonight we will be holding a joint service with Holy Trinity New York to participate in a Blue Christmas. Zoom details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85248233035>

Carol Service – Our first ever outdoor St Stephen’s carol service will be held on 13th December. Please do look out for notices and dress warmly. To be confirmed, subject to Covid restrictions.

2020 has been a very difficult year and this Christmas more than ever, people in our community are facing uncertainty and hardship. For those of you able to help, Rhian will be putting together a project to supply our local food bank with chocolate selection boxes. St Stephen’s will serve as a drop off point on Mondays 2-5pm and Thursdays 11am-2pm (last drop off 17th December).

**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 Gathering

Each week a verse from the Advent Prose is sung.

Opening Hymn

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

Prayers of Penitence

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen,
and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.
cf John 1.23

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour,
and let your anger cease from us:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Show us your compassion,
O Lord, and grant us your salvation:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Your salvation is near for those that fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land:

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The president says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

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.

Each week a verse is sung and we respond with the chorus:

**Christmas is coming
The Church is glad to sing
And let the Advent Candles
Brightly burn in a ring.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85.1-2, 8-end

1 LORD thou art become gracious ' unto thy' land : thou hast turned a'way the cap'tivity of Jacob.

2 Thou hast forgiven the offence of 'thy ' people : and 'covered all their 'sins.

8 I will hearken what the Lord God will' say con'cerning me : for he shall speak peace unto his people and to his saints,' that they' turn not a'gain.

9 For his salvation is nigh' them that'fear him : that'glory may dwell in our' land.

10 Mercy and truth are' met to'gether : righteousness and peace have' kissed each other.
11 Truth shall flourish' out of the earth : and righteousness hath' look-ed' down from
heaven.
12 Yea the Lord shall shew' loving'kindness : and our' land shall 'give her 'increase.
13 Righteousness shall' go be'fore him : and he shall direct his going' in the way.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3.8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of Eternal Glory.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of Eternal Glory.

cf Isaiah 40.3-5

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1.1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

or

Maranatha:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In our parish cycle of prayer: *Our Toddler and Almost Friday Club groups, and Fairley House School*

For those who live in: *Greencoat Place and Vincent Square*

As part of St Stephen's link with the Church in Myanmar:

David Myo Lwin Kyaw, the ordinand currently supported by St Stephen's

We pray for our New York City link parish:

The Church of the Holy Trinity and their Rector, Revd John F. Beddingfield, praying particularly for our fellowship, hospitality and care for one another as we share in the mission of Christ

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain: Carlos López-Lontano (Bishop)

Kuopio (Finland): Jari Jolkkonen (Bishop)

Capital Vision 2020 Ambassadors: we pray this Advent for the boldness to share the light of Christ with those we meet in the places where we live and work

Harrow Deanery: Ian Dowsett (Area Dean)

Deanery Synod: John Dolling (Lay Chairman), Robert May (Secretary), Pam Clissold (Treasurer)

Pray for the work of Harrow Bereavement Care

Among those who have asked for our prayers:

Robin Fairfax; Vera Godsall; Marian Hall; Jean Haswell; Dyfrig Jones; Alan Mack; Michael Pryce Jones; Miriam Lesmond; Pete Read; Henry Taylor; John Travis-Clarke; Gay Widmer; Anne Norman-Butler; Marian McHale; Amal Griffin; Fraser Copley and his dad, Kevin Copley; Pete Barney; Tom Robinson; Eddie Catton; Ramone, his parents Anne and Mo, and his brothers Liam and Raheem; John Turpin; Tony Reid; Mark O'Donnell; Jan Broad; Angela Farquhar; Lynette Burrows; Michael Cross; Tony Sewell

For the Years' Mind of:

June Rosemary Conway; Clara Law; Ellen Platt; Henry Arthur Spickernell; Frederick Callender

And at the end

Merciful God,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break
upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in
darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of
peace.
or

May the God of peace make you
completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Offertory Hymn

***Offering is available online at [CAF Donate](#), or please leave donations in the box by the
North Door at the end of the service.***

Prayers at the Preparation of the Table

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Preface is said ... ending with,
evermore praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth,
heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with Stephen, John and all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father,
for ever and ever. Amen.

As we await the coming of God's kingdom 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The president says one of these invitations to communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.
Amen.**

Silence is kept

Post Communion Prayer

The minister prays the post communion prayer:

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:

**Loving God,
whether we are in your church or joining online from another place,
we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and
nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, and renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world and
continue in the risen life of Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Notices are given

Final Hymn

The Blessing and Dismissal

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing ...

or

May God the Father,
judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.
Amen.

May God the Son,
coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit
make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.
Amen.

And the blessing ...

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen. or

The ministers and people depart