



# St Stephen with St John Westminster

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## Weekly Notes

15<sup>th</sup> November 2020

(The Second Sunday before Advent)

### Today:

10:00am Parish Eucharist  
6:00pm Evensong

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](#)

Password: 657351

**Tonight at Evensong** we welcome Rev Myles Owen, Chaplain to Grey Coat Hospital School.

**Come and See** this Sunday, until the 29<sup>th</sup> November, Helena will be leading a series on Pilgrimage after the Sunday Eucharist, culminating in a mini-pilgrimage on the 29<sup>th</sup>. It will begin on Zoom and in the church at 11:20, and last for about 20 minutes. All are very welcome!

**Silent Hour** is continuing during lockdown as part of personal prayer allowed in Church. So come and drop in for your own private prayer and/or contemplation from 5.00 pm for an hour every Tuesday.

### Preachers For Said Evensong 6pm

During the Kingdom Season (Nov) 2020, we shall be looking at chaplains and their ministries. Next week we have Rev Tasha Critchlow Chaplain to St Bart's Hospital who will be speaking to us.



st Stephen's Westminster



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*The minister welcomes the people*

**Prayer of Preparation**

**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 Jesus Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.**

**The Introduction**

*Remain standing as the minister says*

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

The Lord be with you,  
**and also with you.**

**Invitation to Confession**

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'  
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*cf Matthew 4.17*

**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**

Lord have mercy.  
**Lord have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord have mercy.  
**Lord have mercy.**

### **The Absolution**

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.**

### ***Gloria in Excelsis***

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
**Amen.****

## **The Collect** *for the Day*

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**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading:** *Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end*

Be silent before the Lord God!  
For the day of the Lord is at hand;  
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.  
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
'The Lord will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.'  
Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.  
That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry

against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the Lord,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.  
Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the Lord's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 90.1-8**

LORD thou hast' been our' refuge : from one gene'ration' to an'other.  
2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were  
made : thou art God from ever'lasting and world without'end.  
3 Thou turnest' man to de'struction : again thou sayest, Come again ye 'children of'  
men.  
4 For a thousand years in thy sight' are but as' yesterday : seeing that is 'past. as a'  
watch in the' night.  
5 As soon as thou scatterest them they are' even as a 'sleep : and fade away' suddenly'  
like the grass.  
6 In the morning it is green and' groweth' up : but in the evening it is cut down 'dri-ed'  
up and 'withered.  
7 For we consume away in' thy dis'pleasure : and are afraid at thy'  
wrathful' indig'nation.  
8 Thou hast set our mis'deeds be'fore thee : and our secret sins in the light of thy  
'countenance.

### **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk

get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 25.14-30*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

*A verse may be sung*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer

darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All sit*

## **Sermon**

### **Profession of Faith**

**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**

Respond to the words 'Lord in your mercy 'with '**Hear our prayer'**

**In our parish cycle of prayer:** Our Choir and Organists, and The Grey Coat Hospital School

**For those who live in:** Great Peter Street and Victoria Street

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

Archbishop Stephen, Archbishop of the Province of Myanmar, and Bishop of Yangon

**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 the staff team and their needs

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for the Church of Ceylon: Dhiloraj Canagasabey (Bishop of Colombo), Keerthisiri Fernando (Bishop of Kurunegala)

The Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran Church: Urmas Viilma (Archbishop), Tiit Salumäe and Joel Luhamets (Bishops)

Capital Vision 2020 Ambassadors: we pray for confidence to encourage each other to be bold ambassadors for Christ

Pray for the work of Andrew Corsie, Area Director of Ministry, and Ruwani Gunarwardene, his PA and Area Training Administrator

**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

**For the Years' Mind of:** George Taylor, G Hilton Nicholson (Priest), Cyril George Allum, Lillian Hanlon, Joe Connolly, Richard Keith Martin

Ending with:

**Merciful God,**

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

**Amen.**

## The Peace

To crown all things there must be love,  
to bind all together and complete the whole.  
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

*Colossians 3.14,15*

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

## Offertory

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

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.**

*The president praises God for his mighty acts and sings:*

**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.**

*The president recalls the Last Supper, and one of these acclamations may be used*

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died: Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**  
or

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*The prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly*  
**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

## **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**

## **Agnus Dei**

**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.**

*The president says one of these invitations to communion*

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our  
Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink  
in remembrance that he  
died for you,  
And feed on him in your  
hearts by faith with  
thanksgiving.

**Amen.**

or

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sins 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.**

*Please stay in your seats during the distribution of communion. The priest will bring communion to you.*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

*The minister prays the post communion prayer:*

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:*

**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.**

*The minister gives any notices*

***The Dismissal***

## **Final Blessing**

*The minister gives the following or another suitable blessing*

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,  
that you may reign with him in glory;  
and the blessing ...

**Or**

May God,  
who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

**Amen.**

May he give you joy in their fellowship  
and a share in their praises.

**Amen.**

May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness  
and to come to the full radiance of glory.

**Amen.**

And the blessing ...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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