



# St Stephen with St John Westminster

[www.sswsj.org](http://www.sswsj.org)

## Weekly Notes

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

(The Sunday Next 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

**Today** we welcome Revd Dr Elizabeth Welch as our speaker.

**Tonight at Evensong** we welcome Rev Tasha Critchlow Chaplain to St Bart's Hospital.

**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!

2020 has been a very difficult year, with so many losing their jobs, homes and, tragically, their lives. This Christmas more than ever, people in our community are facing uncertainty and hardship, and often it's the children who suffer most. For those of you lucky enough to be in a position to help, Rhian will be putting together a project to supply our local food bank with chocolate selection boxes, to try and bring a little joy to those who really need it. St Stephen's will serve as a drop off point for any donations on Mondays 2-5pm and Thursdays 11am-2pm (last drop off 17th December). Do spread the word.

### Dates for your Diary:

- Slow Art – Advent Sunday on November 29<sup>th</sup> 6pm during Evensong, we once again welcome Marc Woodhead, from the National Gallery to share his insight with us and our friends at Holy Trinity New York, who will be joining us.
- Blue Christmas – Joint Evensong with Holy Trinity New York on 6<sup>th</sup> December
- Carol Service – Our first ever outdoor St Stephen's carol service will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Please do look out for notices and dress warmly. To be confirmed, subject to Covid restrictions.



st Stephen's Westminster



ststephensrochesterrow



ststephensrochesterrow

*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*

Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven  
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;  
who 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:** *Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24*

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 95.1-7**

O COME, let us sing unto the Lord : let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and shew our-selves 'glad in' him

with 'psalms.

3 For the Lord is a ' great' God : and a great King above all' gods.

4 In his hand are all the corners of the earth and the strength of the hills is his also.

5 The sea is his and' he' made it : and his hands prepared the dry land.

6 O come, let us worship and fall' down and kneel before the 'Lord our' Maker.

7 For he is the 'Lord our 'God : and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

**Second Reading:** *Ephesians 1.15-end*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 25.31-end*

**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.**

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord,

when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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 Babies and Toddlers Group and Almost Friday Club, and Millbank School

***For those who live in:*** Greencoat Row and Vincent Street

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

*the Holy Cross Theological College, Yangon, its Principal, the Revd. Samuel San Myat Shwe, staff and students*

***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 programs and people served through Holy Trinity Neighborhood Center (HTNC)*

***In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:***

*Pray for the Anglican Church of Bermuda: Nicholas Dill (Bishop)*

*Capital Vision 2020 Ambassadors: we pray for all working in construction*

*Pray for the work and ministry of retired clergy in the Willesden Area*

*Pray for the work of Cursillo in the Diocese of London: Ken Buckler (spiritual director); Martin Carr (lay director)*

*As her Feast Day falls on a Sunday this year, St Cecilia is suppressed in the Lectionary. Your prayers are nonetheless requested for the work of all musicians, many of whom rely on our churches for their livelihood; we give thanks for the music made to the glory of God in churches across the Diocese, and the imaginative ways which many churches have found to continue to include music in service.*

**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:** Joe Connolly; Richard Keith Martin; Derek Booth; Hazel Jones

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.**

**Offering is available online at [CAF Donate](#).**

**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:*

Stir up, O Lord,  
the wills of your faithful people;  
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,  
may by you be plenteously rewarded;  
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.**

*The minister gives any notices*

## **The Dismissal**

### **Final Blessing**

*The minister gives the following or another suitable blessing*

God the Father,  
who has given to his Son the name above every name,  
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

**Amen.**

God the Son,  
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,  
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,  
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

**Amen.**

And the blessing ...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Registered Charity No. 1132179  
Music Reproduction License: 576643  
CCL: 6175