



# St Stephen with St John

## Westminster

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

**Today:**

10:00am Parish Eucharist  
6:00pm Evensong

# Weekly Notes

29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

(The First 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/8768756365) Password: 657351

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

**Tonight** after Evensong at 6:45pm, we welcome Marc Woodhead, from the National Gallery to share his insight with us and Holy Trinity New York, who will be joining us for a Slow Look at . . . *The Umbrian Diptych - The Virgin and Child and The Man of Sorrows* from The National Gallery in London; and *Piero della Francesca's The Crucifixion* from The Frick Collection in New York

The two panels of the Umbrian Diptych were bought separately by The National Gallery, London, and reunited in 2003. They belong together as a folding private devotional work! We'll explore the ideas depicted in these two companion paintings.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> December).

**Lessons in Lockdown** – Thank you for all the kind feedback we have received from you so far! Our Project with you officially ends on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec but if anyone else would still like to make a contribution, we have scheduled a Zoom meeting, for anyone who would like to 'drop in' and share their thoughts, feelings and reflections on *Lockdown* next Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec at 7 pm. I look forward to seeing some of you then.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88976215551?pwd=RzFaaUFjTlIESU9oRDVhRGhtaEt3Zz09>  
Meeting ID: 889 7621 5551 Passcode: k2E7Bh

### Dates for your Diary:

- **Blue Christmas** – Joint Evensong with Holy Trinity New York on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Zoom details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85248233035>
- **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.

**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**

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things  
now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ  
let us confess our sins.

*cf 1 Corinthians 4.5*

*or*

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.

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*

**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**

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, 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 64.1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 80.1-8

1 HEAR O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph' like a sheep : shew thyself also, thou that' sittest upon the cherubims.  
2 Before Ephraim Benjamin' and Ma'nasses : stir up thy' strength and come and help us.  
3 Turn us a'gain O' God : shew the light of thy countenance and we shall be whole  
4 O Lord'God of hosts : how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that'prayeth?  
5 Thou feedest them with the bread of' tears and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.  
6 Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours and our enemies' laugh us to' scorn.  
7 Turn us again thou'God of hosts : shew the light of thy countenance and we' shall be whole.

8 Thou hast brought a vine' out of Egypt: thou hast cast' out the heathen and planted it.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1.3-9**

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 13.24-end**

'But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like

a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

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 Choir and Organists, 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 Lusitanian Church of Portugal: Jorge Pina Cabral (Bishop)*

*Borgå (Porvoo) (Finland): Björn Vikström (Bishop)*

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

*Pray for the work of the Bishop's Visitor, Sarah Paul*

***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:***

*Derek Booth; Hazel Jones; Elizabeth Martin; Sabina Handley; Margaret Klovacs; Jayden Francis Samuel Fajemisin-Bailey; June Rosemary Conway*

*And at the end*

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

**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:*

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
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**

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*

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The ministers and people depart*