



THE SUNDAY SHEET
THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10TH DECEMBER 2023

*A very warm welcome as we gather for the Parish Eucharist.
An induction loop is provided.*

Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Please inform one of the stewards/sidespersons who will pass the information on to the clergy. Many thanks

ENTRANCE HYMN

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Charles Coffin 1676-1749
Tr. John Chandler 1806-1876
Tune: Winchester New

The order of service can be found in the Eucharist Booklet

THE COLLECT

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,
who is alive and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

ISAIAH 40. I-II

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

For the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Please Stand

Earth was waiting, spent and restless,
with a mingled hope and fear,
faithful men and women praying,
‘Surely, Lord, the day is near:
the Desire of all the nations –
it is time he should appear!’

Then the Spirit of the Highest
to a virgin meek came down,
and he burdened her with blessing,
and he pained her with renown;
for she bore the Lord's anointed
for his cross and for his crown.

Earth has groaned and laboured for him
since the ages first began,
for in him was hid the secret
which through all the ages ran –
Son of Mary, Son of David,
Son of God, and Son of Man.

Walter Chalmers Smith 1824-1908

Tune: Picardy

MARK I. 1-8

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

After the Sermon please turn to the Eucharist booklet for the Affirmation of Faith

OFFERTORY HYMN

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us.;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every loving heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thou gracious kingdom bring.

By thy own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley 1707-1788

Tune: Cross of Jesus

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of hope,
renew in us the joy of your salvation
and make us a living sacrifice to you;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please turn to the Eucharist Booklet for the Eucharistic Prayer

HYMN AT THE END OF COMMUNION

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart. *Sing through 3 times*

Taize Community

Please turn to the Eucharist Booklet

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, here you have nourished us with the food of life;
through our sharing in this holy sacrament
teach us to judge wisely earthly things
and to yearn for things heavenly.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new,
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

*Ring bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?*

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human:

Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected:

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlehem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry.

*Ring bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
we will make him welcome!*

Fred Pratt Green 1903-2000 Tune: Personent Hodie

CCL No: 961722

NOTICES

Refreshments. Please do join us for refreshments after the service if you can.

Christmas Services Cards are available giving details of the Christmas Service. Please take as many as you want and distribute them among friends and neighbours. Thank you!

The Sunday after Christmas has traditionally been a day when we hold a Mission Area Service. It falls this year of Sunday 31st December and there will be a Mission Area Eucharist at the Parish Church at 10.30am.

Praying for Growth. Please pray for the growth and renewal of the Church here in this place. Here is the Leading Your Church into Growth Prayer:

God of Mission,

Who alone brings growth to your Church,

Send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions,

Joy to our worship,

And power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers,

In spiritual commitment to you,

And in service to our local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Community Fridge takes place every Sunday from 5-7pm at the Parish Church.

Sunday Sheet. Please take this sheet home with you for the notices for the week and to pray for what is happening in

the life of our Church.

Carols by 1000 Candles

An evening of Music with the Cathedral Choir on Friday 15th December at 7pm at

the Cathedral

Pay at the Door

Adults £10

Children Free



THE WEEK AHEAD

11th Monday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

12th Tuesday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

6pm Holy Eucharist

13th Wednesday – Lucy, Martyr

9am Morning Prayer

10.30am Holy Eucharist

14th Thursday – John of the Cross

9am Morning Prayer

10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*

10.45am Prayer Group *at the Parish Church*
5pm Evening Prayer
7pm Singing Group *at the Parish Church*

15th Friday – Ember Day

9am Morning Prayer
9.30am Offeren (*Welsh Eucharist*)
7pm Carols by 1000 Candles

16th Saturday – Ember Day

9am Morning Prayer
5pm Evening Prayer

17th Sunday – Advent 3

9.30am The Parish Eucharist
11am The Cathedral Eucharist
3.30pm Choral Evensong
6pm Carol Service *at St Mary's Cefn*

Contact:

Parish Church: 01745 535957
Fr Rex: 07393 639813

Parish Church Website:

www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk

TODAY'S READINGS

ISAIAH 40. 1-II

No matter how mighty, strong and awesome, our God has the tenderness of one who loves without restraint. God rescued the people of Israel in the wilderness and will again, tenderly and compassionately, rescue us from whatever wilderness in which we find ourselves.

PSALM 85. 8-13

2 PETER 3. 8-15A

By living as well as we can in accordance with Christ's teaching we become a part of the transformation of the world in preparation for the coming of the Lord.

MARK I. 1-8

The coming of the Messiah has been foretold throughout history, but John the Baptist was the first living witness to the imminent event. He was utterly convinced, articulate, persistent and faithful to his calling – a model for us in our time.

