



THE SUNDAY SHEET  
ADVENT 3  
12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

*A very warm welcome as we gather for the Parish Eucharist.  
An induction loop is provided. To use, please turn your hearing aid to T.*

*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

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him  
who brings good news, good news,  
proclaiming peace, announcing news of happiness,  
our God reigns, our God reigns!  
Our God reigns, our God reigns,  
our God reigns, our God reigns.

You watchmen lift your voices joyfully as one,  
shout for your King, your King.  
See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:  
your God reigns, your God reigns!  
Your God reigns, your God reigns,  
your God reigns, your God reigns!

*Words & Music: Leonard E Smith Jnr*

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATHE

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:  
**a light no darkness can quench.**

God our Father,  
you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age  
a son called John.  
He grew up strong in spirit,  
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,  
and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.  
Help us, who have baptized into Christ,  
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,  
and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

#### THE COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### PHILIPPIANS 4. 4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

For the word of the Lord:  
**Thanks be to God.**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
 Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
 Make us your own, your holy people,  
 light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ be our light!*  
*Shine in your church gathered today.*

### LUKE 3. 7-18

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke.

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

#### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved name.

*Philip Doddridge 1702-1751 based on Luke 4. 18-19*

*Tune: Bristol*

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord our God,  
as your servant John the Baptist  
prepared the way for the coming of your Son,  
make us your servants ready for his coming  
in these holy mysteries;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

## HYMN AT THE END OF COMMUNION

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;  
lift up your voices, the Lord us near.

*Taize Community*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of mercy and power,  
whose Son rules over all,  
grant us so to live in obedience to your will,  
that at his appearing  
we may be raised to eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## FINAL HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe:

*John Mason Neale 1818-1866 tr. from Latin Advent Antiphones  
Tune: Veni Emmanuel*

## TODAY'S READINGS

### ZEPHANIAH 3. 14-20

The prophet calls God's people to rejoice: God himself will come down to save them from their troubles and oppressors. His love and power will dispel all fear and shame as he brings his people home.

### PHILIPPIANS 4. 4-7

In the light of the Lord's imminent return, Paul exhorts Christians to live lives characterised by rejoicing, thanksgiving and prayer-filled dependence. In so doing, they will be enfolded in God's peace.

### LUKE 3. 7-18

John the Baptist urges the crowds to repent. Christ is coming among them bringing judgement and salvation. They can get ready to receive him by living honest, humble and generous lives now.

## NOTICES

**Refreshments.** Please join us for refreshments after the service this morning if you can. Donations towards the cost are welcome but not compulsory, so do stay even if you haven't got money with you!

**Covid 19** Please use the hand sanitiser, complete the Track & Trace form, and please continue wear a face covering when coming to church. Some changes are being made as restrictions ease but please take care to keep one another safe.

**Service Booklets.** Please do take this reading sheet away with you after the service but please leave the service booklet on your seat. The booklets are

quarantined until the following Sunday. Thank you!

**Prayers.** Please continue to pray for the current situation with Covid 19 and for all those who suffer especially the anxious. Please pray too for the recovery and reconstruction of the Church both now and when this crisis is over. Pray for the renewal and growth of the Church in this place.

**Collection.** We do not go around with collection plates at the Offertory but there are plates at the back for your donations. If you are a regular worshipper here please consider giving by Gift Direct, a simple and easy way to give to the work of the Church. Details can be found on the Church in Wales website: [www.churchinwales.org.uk](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk) Thank you!

**Christmas Flowers.** Donations in memory of loved ones will be gratefully received towards Christmas Flowers. Please complete the envelope at the back of the Church and pass for the attention of Fr Rex. Thank you!

**Christmas Eve.** Attendance at the Christingle & Crib Service at 4pm will be ticket only. Tickets are available in church. Please do pick one up if you intend to be at that service.

Nine Lessons and Carols at the Cathedral at 7pm will also be ticketed. If you want tickets for this please let Fr Rex know asap.

**Thursday Eucharist.** There will not be a celebration of the Eucharist on Thursday this week. Things will be back to normal

for 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Christmas Carols.** There will be a Celebration of Christmas on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm at the Parish Church with Cantamus. Come along and join in the singing of favourite Christmas Carols.

### **19<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Advent 4**

9.30am The Parish Eucharist

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

3.30pm Evening Prayer

6.30pm A Celebration of Christmas in words and Carols with Cantamus *at the*

*Parish Church*

### **THE WEEK AHEAD**

#### **13<sup>th</sup> Monday – Lucy, Martyr**

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist *at the Cathedral*

6pm Evening Prayer

#### **14<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – John of the Cross**

9am Morning Prayer

6pm Evening Prayer

7pm Holy Eucharist *at the Cathedral*

#### **15<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Feria**

9am Morning Prayer

10.30am Holy Eucharist *at the Cathedral*

6pm Evening Prayer

#### **16<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Feria**

9am Morning Prayer

**No Eucharist today!**

6pm Evening Prayer

#### **17<sup>th</sup> Friday – O Wisdom!**

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Offeren (*Welsh Eucharist*)

6pm Choral Evensong

#### **18<sup>th</sup> Saturday – O Adonai!**

9am Morning Prayer

6pm Evening Prayer

#### Contact:

Parish Church: 01745 535957

Fr Rex: 07393 639813

#### Parish Church Website:

[www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk)