



THE SUNDAY SHEET
THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
3RD 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

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding:
“Christ is nigh!” it seems to say;
“Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!”

Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven.

That when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might and merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

Edward Caswell 1814-1878

Tune: Merton

The order of service can be found in the Eucharist Booklet

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.**

ISAIAH 64. 1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

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

THE GOSPEL

Please Stand

The advent of our King
our prayers must now employ,
and we must hymns of welcome sing
in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son
incarnate deigns to be;
himself a servant's form puts on,
to set his servants free.

Daughter of Sion, rise
to meet thy lowly King;
nor let thy faithless heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.

MARK 13. 24-37

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘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.

As Judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
and his true members all unite
with him in heaven to reign.

All glory to the Son
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever One,
through all eternity.

Charles Coffin 1676-1749

Tr. John Chandler 1806-1876 Tune: Franconia

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

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.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stones.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell b.1958

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of love and power,
your word stirs within us
the expectation of the coming of your Son.
Accept all we offer you this day,
and sustain us with your promise of eternal life.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please turn to the Eucharist Booklet for the Eucharistic Prayer

HYMN AT THE END OF COMMUNION

Creator of the starry height,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, Redeemer, of us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.

Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst come to save our fallen race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.

When earth was near its evening hour,
thou didst, in love's redeeming power,
like bridegroom from his chamber, come
forth from a Virgin-mother's womb.

At thy great Name, exalted now,
all knees in lowly homage bow;
al things in heaven and earth adore,
and own thee King for evermore.

tr. John Mason Neale 1818-1866
Tune: Conditor Alme Siderum

Please turn to the Eucharist Booklet

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our deliverer, awaken our hearts
to prepare the way for the advent of your Son:
that, with minds purified by the grace of his coming,
we may serve you faithfully all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:

Alleluia!

Christ appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passions
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars.

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:

Alleluia!

thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley 1707-1788 & John Cennick 1718-1755

Tune: Helmsley

CCL No: 961722

NOTICES

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

Advent Procession at the Cathedral at 6pm. This is a beautiful service of music and readings to mark the beginning of this special season.

Christmas Coffee Morning will take place at the Parish Church on Saturday 9th December from 10am to 1pm. Proceeds to the appeal for the Holy Land. A warm festive welcome to all.

Carols by 1000 Candles

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

Adults £10
Children Free



THE WEEK AHEAD

4th Monday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Eucharist
5pm Evening Prayer

5th Tuesday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer
5pm Evening Prayer
6pm Holy Eucharist

6th Wednesday – Nicholas, Bishop

9am Morning Prayer
10.30am Holy Eucharist
7pm Confirmation Service *at the Parish Church*

7th Thursday – Ambrose, Bishop

9am Morning Prayer
10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*
10.45am Prayer Group *at the Parish Church*
5pm Evening Prayer

8th Friday – Cynidr, Bishop

9am Morning Prayer
9.30am Offeren (*Welsh Eucharist*)
6pm St Kentigern Hospice Light up a Life

9th Saturday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer

10th Sunday – Advent 2

9.30am The Parish Eucharist
11am The Cathedral Eucharist
3.30pm Choral Evensong

Contact:

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www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk