



THE SUNDAY SHEET
THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)
17TH 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

Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendour arrives;
fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.
*Make way, make way, for the King of kings;
make way, make way, and let his kingdom in.*

He comes the broken hearts to heal, the pris'ners to free;
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.

And those who mourn with heavy hearts, who weep and sigh,
with laughter, joy and royal crown he'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him, their thrones must fall.

Graham Kendrick b.1950

The order of service can be found in the Eucharist Booklet

THE COLLECT

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I THESSALONIANS 5. 16-24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

THE GOSPEL

Please Stand

Hills of the north, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
him who made earth and skies:
he comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.

Lands of the east, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Charles Ernest Oakley 1832-1865
Tune: Little Cornard

JOHN I. 6-8, 19-28

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

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

Great is the darkness that covers the earth,
oppression, injustice and pain;
nations are slipping in hopeless despair,
though many have come in your name –
watching while sanity dies,
touched by the madness and lies.

*Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out your Spirit we pray;
come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out your Spirit on us today.*

May now your Church rise with power and love,
this glorious gospel proclaim;
in every nation salvation will come
to those who believe in your name.
Help us bring light to this world,
that we might speed your return.

Great celebrations on that final day,
when out from the heavens you come;
darkness will vanish, all sorrow will end,
and rulers will bow at your throne;
our great commission complete;
then face to face we shall meet.

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.**

Please turn to the Eucharist Booklet for the Eucharistic Prayer

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 is near. *Sing through 2 times*

Taize Community

Please turn to the Eucharist Booklet

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

Like a sea without a shore
love divine is boundless.
Time is now and evermore
and His love surrounds us.

*Maranatha! Maranatha!
Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

So that we could all be free
He appeared among us,
blest are those who have not seen,
yet believe His promise.

All our visions, all our dreams,
are but ghostly shadows
of the radiant clarity
waiting at life's close.

Death where is your victory?
Death where is your sting?
Closer than the air we breathe
is our risen King.

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.

Mothers' Union. The next meeting takes place at the Parish Church at 2pm on 20th December. A warm welcome to all.

THE WEEK AHEAD

18th Monday – O Adonai

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

19th Tuesday – O Root of Jesse

9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer *at the Parish Church*

6pm Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*

20th Wednesday – O Key of David

9am Morning Prayer

10.30am Holy Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

21st Thursday – O Dayspring

9am Morning Prayer

10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*

10.45am Prayer Group *at the Parish Church*

5pm Evening Prayer

22nd Friday – O King of the Nations

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Offeren (*Welsh Eucharist*)

6pm Choral Evensong

23rd Saturday – O Emmanuel

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am/10am Decorating the Cathedral

& Parish Church for Christmas

5pm Evening Prayer

**24th Sunday – Advent 4/Christmas
Eve**

9.30am The Parish Eucharist
11am The Cathedral Eucharist
1pm Holy Baptism *at the Parish Church*
4pm Christingle & Crib Service *at the
Parish Church*
7pm Nine Lessons & Carols
11.30pm Midnight Mass

25th Monday – Christmas Day

9.30am The Parish Eucharist
11am The Cathedral Eucharist

Contact:

Parish Church: 01745 535957

Fr Rex: 07393 639813

Parish Church Website:

www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk

TODAY'S READINGS

ISAIAH 61. 1-4, 8-II

God promises justice and joy, restoration and renewal; the good news has already brought salvation, for it is God's nature to fulfil the promise.

PSALM 126

I THESSALONIANS 5. 16-24

Guided by the Spirit, let us rejoice and give thanks for the good news of Jesus Christ and trust in his return, for God keeps his promises.

JOHN I. 6-8, 19-28

Although John was not God's promised Messiah, his baptism of repentance prepared the way for Jesus; yet the religious establishment failed to recognise either of them.

