

## **Holy Communion**

**9.30am – 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, 32  
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 Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave:  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...*

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:  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...*

O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery:  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...*

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:  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...*

John Mason Neale | Thomas Helmore

## **Gathering and Greeting**

In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God  
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

All: **And also with you**

**Welcome** – Revd Philip Sudell



We light the third candle on the Advent  
Wreath and sing:

**Longing for food, many are hungry**  
Longing for water, many still thirst  
Make us your bread, broken for others  
Shared until all are fed.  
*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.*  
*Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in your church gathered today.*

Words and music: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 © 1993, 2000,  
Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP

## **Prayers of Penitence**

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.

## **Confession**

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we  
have done evil in your sight. We are sorry  
and repent. Have mercy on us according to  
your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and  
cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit  
within us and restore us to the joy of your  
salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

We sing the

## **Kyrie**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

## Assurance of forgiveness

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
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.  
All: Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

### Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup> Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

<sup>16</sup> On that day they will say to Jerusalem, 'Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.

<sup>17</sup> The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.'

<sup>18</sup> 'I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you.

<sup>19</sup> At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you.

I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honour in every land where they have suffered shame.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honour and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,' says the Lord.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

### Psalm 146:4-10

**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

<sup>4</sup> Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, • whose hope is in the Lord their God;

<sup>5</sup> Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; • who keeps his promise for ever;

**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

<sup>6</sup> Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong • and bread to those who hunger.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord looses those that are bound; • the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

<sup>8</sup> The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; • the Lord loves the righteous;

<sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow; • but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord shall reign for ever, • your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia.  
**I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

## New Testament Reading

### Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### John 12:37-50

<sup>37</sup> Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. <sup>38</sup> This was to fulfil the word of Isaiah the prophet:

‘Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?’

<sup>39</sup> For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

<sup>40</sup> ‘He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn – and I would heal them.’

<sup>41</sup> Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him. <sup>42</sup> Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved human praise more than praise from God. <sup>44</sup> Then Jesus cried out, ‘Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only,

but in the one who sent me. <sup>45</sup> The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. <sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. <sup>47</sup> ‘If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. <sup>50</sup> I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon – Philip Sudell

### Profession of Faith

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

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

And at the end: Merciful Father,  
Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### 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. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Long ago prophets knew

58

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  
*Ring bells ring ring ring...*

Mary hail though afraid  
She believed she obeyed  
In her womb God is laid

Till the time expected  
Nurtured and protected  
*Ring bells ring ring ring...*

Journey ends where afar  
Beth'lem 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*  
*Jesus comes Jesus comes*  
*We will make Him welcome*

Fred Pratt Green | Gustav Theodore Holst  
© Words: 1971 Stainer & Bell Ltd; Music: Public Domain

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.  
All: **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks  
to the Lord our God  
All: **It is right to give  
thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, 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.

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Christ is the bread of life.

All: **When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All: **Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

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.

## **The Breaking of Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

## **Agnus Dei**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

## **The Giving of Communion**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## **Prayer after Communion**

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. Amen.



## Church family news

Hills of the North, rejoice, 29  
river and mountain-spring,  
hark to the advent voice;  
valley and lowland, sing.  
Christ comes in righteousness and love,  
he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,  
sing to the listening earth,  
carry on every breeze  
hope of a world's new birth:  
In Christ shall all be made anew,  
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,  
he is your brightest morn,  
greet him with joyous eyes,  
praise shall his path adorn:  
your seers have longed to know their Lord;  
to you he comes, the final word.

Shores of the utmost West,  
lands of the setting sun,  
welcome the heavenly guest  
in whom the dawn has come:  
he brings a never-ending light  
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey home,  
songs be in every mouth,  
lo, from the North they come,  
from East and West and South:  
in Jesus all shall find their rest,  
in him the universe be blest.

Charles E. Oakley | Editors of English Praise  
© English Hymnal Company (Oxford University Press)

## Blessing

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  
of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and  
the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain  
with you always.

All: **Amen**

## Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.  
All: **Thanks be to God.**

CCLI: 777478

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England  
(2000) material from which is included in this service is copyright © the  
Archbishops' Council of the Church of England 2000  
Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicized, NIV® Copyright ©  
1979, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights  
reserved worldwide.

## Readings for next Sunday

22<sup>nd</sup> December – Advent 4

Micah 5:2-5

Canticle: Magnificat

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

# The week ahead

Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 11am	Holy Communion All Age Christingle
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 for 8-9pm	PRAY16 at the Vicarage
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:45-11am	Final Chat & Play for the year for pre-schoolers and their parents/minders @ St Peter's Hall
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>		
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am  12 noon 12-3pm	Women's Bible Study @ St Peter's Hall  Holy Communion Christmas Community Café @ St Peter's Hall
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>		
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	5pm	Carol singing around the parish
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am 11am  6pm	Holy Communion Family Carols  Carols by Candlelight

## Looking ahead

- Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec – Community Café Christmas meal
- Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Dec – Street Carol Singing 5pm
- Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec – Carols by Candlelight 6pm
- Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Eve Communion 11pm
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Day Service 10.30am
- Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Jan – Co-Mission Sunday
- Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jan – Co-Mission Women's Day
- Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Feb – Confirmation Service 11am
- Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Mar – Co-Mission Men's Morning



## Advent Reflections

During Advent season, a number of us are using these reflections – *Comfort and Joy* by Matt Searles - you can get a copy here: [10ofthose.com](http://10ofthose.com)

**Christmas Publicity** could you take and deliver to a road? Pick up a pack on Sunday



This Monday at the Vicarage from 8-9pm – Last one ever! From January we will be praying monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month – Put Tuesday Jan 7<sup>th</sup> in your new diary!

**Carols by Candlelight** is next Sunday! Who will you be inviting?

## Christian Giving

If you would like to financially support the ministry here at St Peter's then you can set up a pattern of regular giving using the info here: [www.stpetersch.org.uk/giving](http://www.stpetersch.org.uk/giving)  
Or make a donation using this QR code

