

# St James Church, Piccadilly

*Rooted in God's earth, we envision a just society and a creative, open-hearted church*

## The Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Advent Sunday 12th December 2021 at 11am

**WITH A CONGREGATION IN THE CHURCH AND LIVE ON YOUTUBE**

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*Welcome to St James's Church.  
Whether you are in the building or online,  
we are glad you are here.*

*In response to congregational feedback,  
**we are returning to more singing during  
the service.** Our Lay Singers, music  
scholars and clergy, socially distanced,  
will lead us in singing without face coverings.  
If you are in the body of the congregation,  
please keep your face covering on while  
singing. All arrangements are kept under  
review.*

*Please remember that social distancing is  
being observed on the Jermyn Street side of  
the church (on the right-hand side as you  
come in) both on the ground floor and at  
gallery level.*

*If you arrive late, please observe this social  
distance zone, and if you are sitting in these  
pews, please keep at least a metre away from  
the next person.*

*If you do not wish to sit distanced, then the  
Piccadilly side (the left-hand side as you  
come in) is free seating, both at ground floor  
and gallery level.*

*As we continue to evolve our arrangements,  
please be sensitive to those around you and  
please also don't hesitate to move to a  
distance if you are feeling uncomfortable.*

*We are fortunate to have a large airy building  
and we hope that you will feel comfortable as  
we pray our way through these days.*

*Before the service, the Singing Scholars will  
sing **O Oriens***

*Words: from the "O" Antiphons  
Music: Michael Haslam inspired by Hildegard  
of Bingen*

O Morning Star,  
Splendour of light eternal and sun of  
righteousness:  
Come and enlighten those who dwell in  
darkness and the shadow of death.

### **OPENING HYMN**

[Tune: Rockhurst; Words: Daniel Charles  
Damon (b. 1955)]

**When listening prophets dare to speak,  
love thunders like an ocean wave,  
old wineskins burst, stone columns  
quake,  
and dry bones rise up from the grave.**

**When prophets feel their strength is gone,  
as Churches add to people's pain,  
a prophet's question lingers on,  
'Can dry bones ever live again?'**

**True prophets challenge us to change,  
to wake and wonder, risk and grow,  
and when the way ahead seems strange,  
to name the fear and let it go.**

**God bids us rise to speak and move  
like prophets on a lighted stage,  
unmasking fear, revealing love,  
and making peace from age to age.**

### **OPENING RESPONSES**

*The priest says*

Grace, mercy and peace from God and the

Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The priest welcomes all to the in-person and online service and invites those attending to say where they are joining from in the YouTube chat function. The presiding priest will also remind the congregation of the social distance zones in the church building.*

**All say**

**Eternal God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden;  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

#### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

We light the third candle of Advent  
in the circle of God's eternity,  
and celebrate John the Baptist  
who heralded the coming of Christ.  
May we know ourselves  
to be bringers of good news in a weary world.  
**Amen.**

#### **PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

*The deacon says*

As we look for your coming, O God,  
to dispel the lingering shadows of night;  
we seek for our hearts your love and peace;  
that we may live in tune with creation  
and grow communities of grace.

In silence we pause before you  
to confess our need for your forgiveness.  
*Silence is kept.*

Now is the time to awake out of sleep, for the  
night is far spent and the day is at hand.

#### **ADVENT KYRIE (Haslam)**

*The cantor sings*

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour,  
and let your anger cease from us:

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,  
that glory may dwell in our land:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

#### **THE ABSOLUTION**

*The priest says*

May the God of mercy and truth forgive  
you and set you free. May you take God's  
forgiveness to heart and be at peace.  
**Amen.**

#### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

##### **The Collect**

*The priest says*

Let us pray.

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.  
**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

#### **FIRST READING**

##### **Zephaniah 3.14-end**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The Lord has taken away the judgements  
against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

### **CANTICLE** **Isaiah 12 vv 2-end**

*Response: **Kindle in us the fire of your spirit.***

Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for God is my strength and my might;  
God has become my salvation.

With joy you will drink from the wells of  
salvation.  
You will say on that day: "Give thanks to  
God, call on God's name;  
make known God's deeds among the  
nations;  
proclaim that God's name is exalted."

Let us sing praises to God, for God has done  
gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.  
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of  
Israel.

*Please remain standing.*

### **THE GOSPEL**

**Luke 3.7-18**

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

*Please sit.*

## **SERMON**

The Revd Dr John Russell

*A period of silence is kept for personal reflection.*

*Please stand.*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*(from the Iona Community)*

**We believe in God,  
maker and sustainer of all life.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus  
Christ,  
the word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth to the place  
of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven,  
to be everywhere present,  
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and of eternal life.  
Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Led by a member of the congregation.*

*The deacon says*

Let us pray for the world, for the church,  
for all in need and for those who have asked  
for our prayers.

*Please kneel or sit.*

## **THE PEACE**

*The priest says*

May the God of peace make you holy, ready  
for the coming of Christ Jesus.

*The deacon says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The priest says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please share the Peace in a socially  
distanced way if you are in the building,  
and in the YouTube chat function if you are  
online.*

*During the hymn, a collection will be taken.*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

[Tune: Christ, be our light; Words: Bernadette  
Farrell (b. 1957)]

**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 in 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 power 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 stone.**

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

## **PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

*The priest says*

God of light:  
look on us in mercy not in judgement;  
draw us from hatred to love;  
from sorrow to feasting.  
Make the frailty of our prayers  
a dwelling place for your glory.  
**Amen.**

*The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...*

### **SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS** (*Wetherick*)

*The cantor sings*

Holy, holy, holy Lord  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord**  
**God of power and might.**  
**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest,**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The cantor sings*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

*Sing after the cantor*

**Hosanna,**  
**Hosanna,**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with: "... as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"*

*The cantor sings*

Great is the mystery of faith.

*Sing after the cantor*

**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

*The prayer continues. At the end of the prayer, sing after the cantor . . .*

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

*Silence is kept.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*You are invited to pray in your own language.*

*The priest says*

Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come, your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Lead us not into temptation**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power, and the**  
**glory are yours, now and for ever.**  
**Amen.**

*The Bread is broken and the priest says*

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

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

### **AGNUS DEI** (*Plainsong*)

*The cantor sings*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:  
miserere nobis.

**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:**  
**miserere nobis.**

**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:**  
**dona nobis pacem.**

*O Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world;  
grant us peace.*

*The priest says*

This is the table of Christ. It has been made ready for those who love God and those who want to love more. So come: you who have much faith and you who have little. You who have been to this sacrament often and you who have not been for some time. You who have tried to follow Christ and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who asks us to meet him here.

**Amen.**

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

*During Communion, the Lay Singers and Scholars will sing **Rejoice in the Lord** always*

*Words: Philippians 4.4-7 English translation of the introit for the third Sunday in Advent.*

*Music: anonymous, from the Mulliner Book*

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu.  
Amen.

**A Prayer for Spiritual Communion**  
*inspired by Richard of Chichester  
(1198-1253)*

Thanks be to you, Christ Jesus,  
for all the benefits you have given me  
for all the pains and insults you have borne  
for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you  
sacramentally,  
I ask you to be present with me spiritually in  
my heart.

O most merciful redeemer,  
friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.  
Amen.

## **Prayers for use during Communion**

Christ Jesus, you promised in your gospel 'I am with you always'. Be with me as part of this community today in this Eucharist; Hear my prayers for others and for myself. May I bind myself to you, in communion with all that lives this day, knowing that nothing can separate me from your love.  
Amen.

O God, help me to trust you,  
and to know that you are with me now.  
Help me to know that all are yours,  
and you are ours,  
in this Eucharist and for ever.  
Amen.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Holy God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son;  
that, when he shall appear,  
we may be found active in your service  
and joyful in your praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.  
Amen.**

*Notices are given by the priest.*

## **FINAL HYMN**

[Tune: Creator God; Words: Jan Berry  
(b. 1953)]

**Praise to God who clears the way  
preparing room and space;  
for power and pride will lose their sway  
as peace comes in their place.**

**Praise to the God who comes to judge  
the truth of word and deed,  
who calls our minds and wills to change,  
rebuking wealth and greed.**

**Praise to the God who waits with us  
for hope and joy to reign,  
who shares our suffering and our loss,  
embodied in our pain.**

**Praise to the God who comes to bring  
comfort to all who mourn.  
The whole creation 'Glory' sings  
as Christ the light is born.**

#### **THE BLESSING**

*The priest says*

May God the merciful judge, give us grace to  
prepare for life eternal.

**Amen.**

May God in Christ, reveal in our midst the  
promise of eternal glory.

**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in  
faith, joyful in hope and constant in love.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God: Creator, Christ and  
Holy Spirit be among you and remain with  
you always.

**Amen.**

*The deacon says*

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

***In addition to the physical collection,  
if you do not have cash with you, please  
visit [sjp.org.uk/donate](http://sjp.org.uk/donate), or use one of the  
tap donation points in the church.***

#### **Christmas Concert with St James's Music Scholars**

***TODAY - Sunday 12th December at 6.30pm***

Our wonderful Music Scholars invite you to  
their Christmas Concert featuring vocal and  
instrumental music by Avril Coleridge-Taylor,  
J.S. Bach, Poulenc, Warlock, Felix  
Mendelssohn, and Britten.

Free admission, including wine and mince  
pies after the concert, with retiring collection  
in aid of the Heart of St James's fundraising  
campaign.

#### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST JAMES'S CHURCH**

##### **Blue Christmas**

***TODAY - Sunday 12th December 3pm***

A service for those who find celebrating  
difficult at Christmas

##### **Festival of Lessons and Carols**

***Sunday 19th December at 6pm***

Our parish carol service with music from  
St James's Lay Singers and Music Scholars

##### **Carols for Shoppers**

***Tuesday 21st December at 5.30pm***

Come and hear the Christmas story in  
scripture, poetry and carols, with music from  
Vigala Singers and musicians from the Royal  
College of Music Junior Department

##### **Christmas Eve Carols**

***Friday 24th December at 4pm***

Children and families are especially welcome

##### **Midnight Mass**

***Friday 24th December at 11.45pm***

All are welcome to our midnight Eucharist  
with carols

##### **Christmas Day Eucharist**

***Saturday 25th December at 11am***

Join us to celebrate the arrival of Christmas