

St James Church, Piccadilly

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

The Eucharist for Advent Sunday Sunday 28th November 2021 at 11am

WITH A CONGREGATION IN THE CHURCH AND LIVE ON YOUTUBE

*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 Music Scholars will
sing **O Virtus Sapientiae** (Antiphon for
Divine Wisdom), words and music by
Hildegard of Bingen.*

OPENING HYMN

[Tune: Helmsley; Words; Charles Wesley
(1707-1788)]

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
robed in glorious majesty;
we who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.**

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

**Sing, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
come, Lord Jesus!
Everlasting God, come down!**

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 first candle of Advent
in the circle of God's eternity,
and celebrate our ancestors
whose names are written in our Hebrew
inheritance.

May we honour our forebears of old
and know ourselves to be children of
Abraham and Sarah in the world today.

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.

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 the One who is alive and reigns
with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please sit.

FIRST READING
Jeremiah 33.14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

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

Please stand.

PSALM 25 vv1.9

Response: Remember not the sins of my youth.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame, but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O God, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
according to your steadfast love.

Gracious and upright are you;
therefore you teach sinners in the way.
You guide the humble in doing right and teach your way to the lowly.
All your paths are mercy and truth
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

Please remain standing

THE GOSPEL
Luke 21.25-36

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

Glory to you O Lord.

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON
The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease

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: Little Cornard; Words: Charles
Edward Oakley (1832-1865) alt.]

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

**Isles of the southern seas
sing to the list'ning earth,
carry on ev'ry 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,
Christ 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.**

**Shores of the utmost west,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heav'nly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
Christ brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.**

**Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in ev'ry mouth,
lo, from the north they come,
from east and west and south:
in Christ all people find their rest,
in God the longing earth be blest.**

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 **Ad Te Levavi**, music by Pedro Aranaz y Vides (1740-1820)*

Ad te levavi animam meam, Deus meus,
in te confido:
non erubescam neque irrideant me inimici
mei.

Etenim universi qui te expectant non
confundentur.

*Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul;
my God, I have put my trust in thee:
O let me not be confounded, neither let mine
enemies triumph over me.*

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: Veni Emmanuel; Words adapted by
Boston College USA]

O come, O come, Emmanuel
and with your people always dwell
who mourn in mortal exile here
until the Lord of Life appear.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to us and with us ever dwell.**

O come, O God's revealing Word,
your voice the Hebrew prophets heard;
they saw that one day war will cease,
and all creation be at peace.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to us and with us ever dwell.**

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who brings the truth of Adonai,

to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in your ways to go.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to us and with us ever dwell.**

O come, O Bread of Heav'n sublime,
who come to us in bread and wine.
Still sacraments will one day cease
in God's eternal Reign of Peace.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to us and with us ever dwell**

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, or use one of the
tap donation points in the church.***