

Sunday 22 December 2024 & Sunday 29 December

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & THE SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Welcome! If you here for the first time please introduce yourself to a member of the clergy or welcome team, and email us at welcome@spwh.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent services

8am Said Eucharist

Celebrant	Fr Daniel Sandham
Preacher	Fr Daniel Sandham

9.15am Joyful Noise

Celebrant	Alison Perera
Preacher	Sarah Elkins
<i>Texts for this service are on the screen</i>	

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Celebrant	Fr Pete Hopkins
Preacher	Fr Daniel Sandham
Entrance hymn	45 O come, O come, Emmanuel
Offertory hymn	313 For Mary, Mother of our Lord
Anthem	The truth above - Traditional Carol arranged by Vaughan Williams
Communion hymn	32 Come, thou Redeemer of the earth 395 With Mary let my soul rejoice (tune 51)
Recessional hymn	41 Lo, he comes with clouds descending
Piano postlude	Allegro moderato, 1st movement of Sonata in A, H 26 - Joseph Haydn

6pm Nine Lessons & Carols

Special order of service

Fourth Sunday of Advent readings

Joyful Noise

Luke 1.26-38 During Elizabeth's sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you." But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, "What does this mean?" The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end." Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am a virgin!" The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. God can do everything!" Mary said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.

Said and Sung Eucharists

Micah 5.2-5a But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Psalm 80:1-8

Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock;

Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation.

Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears; you give them abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Luke 1.39-55 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

The Sunday of Christmas services

8am Said Eucharist	
Celebrant	Fr Daniel Sandham
Preacher	Fr Daniel Sandham

9.15am Joyful Noise Eucharist	
Celebrant	Fr Daniel Sandham
Preacher	Sarah Elkins
<i>Texts for this service are on the screen</i>	

10.30am Sung Eucharist	
Celebrant and preacher	Fr Daniel Sandham
Entrance hymn	59 Angels from the realms of glory
Offertory hymn	83 See amid the winter's snow
Communion hymn	692 Jesus, good above all other
Recessional hymn	72 Joy to the world

The Sunday of Christmas readings

Joyful Noise

Luke 2.15-20 Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about." So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them. Mary hid these things in her heart; she continued to think about them. Then the

shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.

Said and Sung Eucharists

Samuel 2.18-20.26 Jonathan said to him, 'Tomorrow is the new moon; you will be missed, because your place will be empty. On the day after tomorrow, you shall go a long way down; go to the place where you hid yourself earlier, and remain beside the stone there. I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I shot at a mark. Then I will send the boy, saying, "Go, find the arrows." If I say to the boy, "Look, the arrows are on this side of you, collect them", then you are to come, for, as the Lord lives, it is safe for you and there is no danger. But if I say to the young man, "Look, the arrows are beyond you", then go; for the Lord has sent you away. As for the matter about which you and I have spoken, the Lord is witness between you and me for ever.' So David hid himself in the field. When the new moon came, the king sat at the feast to eat. The king sat upon his seat, as at other times, upon the seat by the wall. Jonathan stood, while Abner sat by Saul's side; but David's place was empty. Saul did not say anything that day; for he thought, 'Something has befallen him; he is not clean, surely he is not clean.'

Psalm 148 (said)

Praise, O praise the name of the Lord. **Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.**

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.

Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light. Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. **Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded and they were created. He made them fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away. **Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.**

Luke 2.41-end Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Notices

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS Our candlelit carol service takes place on Sunday 22 at 6pm. We 'read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child'. It features beautiful music sung by our choir, and banging carols for everyone to join in with. And, as if that isn't enough, there's mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES All of our services in Advent prepare us for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, which begins on Christmas Eve. **MAKE SURE YOU COME TO CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS!** If you are away for Christmas, then head to A Church Near You (www.achurchnearyou.com) to find your nearest church. Service times on back page.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION All communicants should make their Christmas Communion at some point on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. You can do that at St Paul's at 5.30pm or 11pm on Christmas Eve, or 8am or 10am on Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS Our wonderful flower arrangers will be decorating the church after the 10.30am Sung Eucharist on Sunday 22. Why not bring your coffee from the hall and lend a hand? No experience necessary, just enthusiasm!

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS On 26, 27 and 28 December we celebrate the feasts of St Stephen (26), St John, Apostle and Evangelist (27), and the Holy Innocents (28). On each day there will be a 10am Said Eucharist. These are quiet, intimate celebrations, offering a beautiful contrast to the busy-ness of so many of our Christmas services and activities. They are a good excuse to escape from a noisy house, or, for those who are alone over these days, a helpful way to provide rhythm to the day, and ensure you meet people - as well as meeting with the Lord, of course!

Please note that there will be no public Morning and Evening Prayer during the Twelve Days, and there will be no Eucharist on Wednesday 1 January. Our usual weekday pattern resumes on Monday 6 January.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Please remember to collect your Christmas cards that have been placed on the cross aisle in church.

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS Fr Daniel will be available to complete Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs) on Thursday 16 January (afternoon and evening) and Saturday 18 January (morning). Please contact Emily in the Parish Office (offcie@spwh.org) to make an appointment.

This week's diary

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are usually said publicly in church Monday-Thursday at 9.10am and 5pm. Everyone is welcome. The church is normally open every day for prayer, reflection and visitors.

Day		Observance	Time	Service/event	Prayer intention
Sunday	22	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8am 9.15am 10.30am 6pm	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist Nine Lessons & Carols	<i>Our parish and its people</i>
Monday	23				<i>Parish clergy</i>
Tuesday	24	CHRISTMAS EVE	4pm 5.30pm 11pm	Crib Service Crib Eucharist Midnight Mass	<i>The joy of the Incarnation</i>
Wednesday	25	CHRISTMAS DAY	8am 10am	Said Eucharist Sung Eucharist	
Thursday	26	St Stephen	10am	Eucharist	<i>The persecuted church</i>
Friday	27	St John, Apostle & Evangelist	10am	Eucharist	<i>Evangelists</i>
Saturday	28	The Holy Innocents	10am	Eucharist	<i>Children who suffer</i>
Sunday	29	FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Eucharist Sung Eucharist	<i>Our parish and its people</i>
Monday	30				<i>Appointment of the next Archbishop of Canterbury</i>
Tuesday	31				<i>Thankful hearts</i>
Wednesday	1	The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus		<i>No Eucharist today</i>	<i>God's blessing on the New Year</i>
Thursday	2	St Basil and St Gregory			<i>Teachers of the faith</i>
Friday	3				<i>Local services</i>
Saturday	4				<i>The performing arts</i>
Sunday	5	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Eucharist Sung Eucharist	<i>Our parish and its people</i>