

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Sunday 28th November 2021 The First Sunday of Advent

Led by Revd Natasha Brady

*Notices can be found on your [Friday Email](#), on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
At the end of the service sheet, is your Roots at Home Sheet.*

please join in using the words in **bold**

Opening Hymn

Joy to the world

sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns!
Your sweetest songs employ

while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- 3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
 and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness,
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders, wonders, of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
(Public Domain)

Prayer of Preparation

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

This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says, repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand
So, let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,
Confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty and most merciful Father,

we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.

But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners,
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and forever.
Amen

Hymn

Come, thou long-expected Jesus
sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
 born to set thy people free,
 from our fears and sins release us,
 let us find our rest in thee.

- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
(Public Domain)

Psalm 25. 1-9 - said

In you, Lord my God,
I put my trust.

- 2 I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 3 No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.
- 4 Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.
- 5 Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Saviour,
and my hope is in you all day long.
- 6 Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.
- 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;

according to your love remember me,
for you, Lord, are good.

8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

9 He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen**

Scripture Reading

Luke 21.25-36, read by Kate Holliday

25 'There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

29 He told them this parable: 'Look at the fig-tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 'Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

34 'Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Canticle – said

A song of David

- 1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever for yours is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
- 2 Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head over all.
- 3 Riches and honour come from you and you rule over all.
- 4 In your hand are power and strength to all.
- 5 And now we give you thanks our God, and praise your glorious name.
- 6 For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29.10b-13, 14b

Sermon by Pat Hegarty

The Creed

I believe in God, The Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions

The response is: Your kingdom come – **Thy will be done**

The Lord's Prayer

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 Collect for 1st Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour; Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Final Hymn

O come, O come Emmanuel

sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 O come, O come Emmanuel,
 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.

- 2 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.
 Refrain

- 3 O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain
- 4 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.
Refrain
- 5 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.
Refrain

Latin 13th century translated by John M Neale (1818-1866)
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The Blessing

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord,
to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

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Heads up

Luke 21.25-36

This passage comes just before Jesus is arrested. The religious leaders are trying to catch Jesus out and to get him into arguments. It seems a very dark and difficult time, but there are small signs of hope. And there is encouragement in difficult times to stand up, look up and look for hope.

Now read Luke 21.25-36 see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Often in difficult times, we may only be able to see the challenges and they may seem so big that we may not always see the small signs of hope. This passage encourages us to look upward with hope. How might we spot the small signs of hope in the dark and difficult times?



The artist writes: 'It takes a lot of courage to show yourself, to open your own cage, and let your soul be free!' – how is this a hopeful image?

LOOK UP

A rainbow, the sun, the stars and the white clouds – which is your favourite and why? What do they have in common? There may be many answers, but perhaps the simplest is: we have to look up to see them. Draw your favourite from the suggestions above. Inside, on or around what you have drawn, write your hopes for you, for the street where you live, for your country and for the world. The Bible encourages us to keep looking up, looking forwards, praying and looking to God for hope.



Make a 'hope' banner. Write the letters H O P E in bubble writing on four separate pieces of card or paper. Decorate and cut them out. Stick them on a wall using non-marking putty, or on a window facing outwards for others to see. Leave it up throughout Advent which is a time of hope and waiting before we celebrate Jesus' birth – bringing hope to the world.

Daily Prayer

At the beginning of each day, ask yourself two questions: What am I most looking forward to today? What is my hope for today? Then, at the end of the day, ask yourself three questions: What did I most enjoy today? Did I learn anything new today – about myself, someone else, something I never knew? Did my hope happen or come true, or did something else give hope that I wasn't expecting? Take time each day to thank God for the good things that happen, and to pray for your hopes.

GROW

Plant cress pots as a sign of hope.

You will need: small plant pots (yoghurt pots are ideal), cotton wool, cress seeds. Put cotton wool into the pots and soak gently with water. Sprinkle cress seeds onto the cotton wool and gently press down. Keep the pots in a light, warm place. Within two days you should see cress appearing. After five to seven days, it may be tall enough to cut and enjoy on a sandwich – or however you choose! How does it feel to see the cress growing? Where might you see tiny signs of hope today?

DRAW



Often when we are worried or afraid of something it can seem so big; yet even the smallest sign of hope can help them seem more manageable. Think or talk with others about how you felt/feel during the pandemic. Where did you see signs of hope? Has it been easier to be hopeful as the time has gone on?

What are your hopes now? Draw a rainbow on a small piece of paper. Write these words underneath the rainbow: 'God plans to give you a hope and a future' (Jer 29.11). Keep this with you all week.