

ST PETER'S PARKSTONE



FOCUSED ON GOD - SPEAKING OF JESUS - CARING ABOUT PEOPLE

The Parish Eucharist



Gaudete Sunday

13th December 2020 - The Third Sunday of Advent

President : the Revd Pat Southgate, Associate Priest

Please take this order of service home with you

Welcome to St Peter's

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is often referred to as 'Gaudete' (or rejoicing) Sunday. The Advent candle for today is pink and pink vestments are sometimes worn.

This theme of joy in the middle of Advent is picked up at the opening of the New Testament reading from Thessalonians "Rejoice in the Lord always!"

Although we cannot take up a collection in our online service, it is possible to make an offering by using the 'donate' button on our website: www.stpetersparkstone.org.uk. Thank you; we are most grateful for any support you can offer.

For any pastoral needs, or enquiries about weddings or baptisms please contact:

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*The clergy process in as the choir sing,
Gaudete, Gaudete Christus est Natus
et Marie a virgine Gaudete*

THE GATHERING

The service begins with a hymn, sung by the choir

**Long ago, prophets knew
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. *Refrain.***

**Mary, hail! Though afraid;
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid;
Till the time expected
Nurtured and protected. *Refrain.***

**Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem 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!***

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.**

The President welcomes everyone and we light the third Advent candle

We have this Advent wreath to remind us of the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.

God our Father,
you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age
a son named John
He grew up strong in Spirit
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord
and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.

The third candle is lit

All **Help us who have been baptized into Christ
To be ready to welcome him into our hearts
And to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit
We ask this through Jesus Christ
The light who is coming into the world.
Amen.**

The service continues with prayers of penitence.

The first commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'
The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All **Amen, Lord have mercy.**

'The axe is laid at the root of the trees; every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down.' But confident in God's mercy we confess our sins.

Silence is kept briefly

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ have mercy.

All **Christ have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

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 Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The President introduces a period of silent prayer and then says the Collect for the day, the opening prayer of the Eucharist.

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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We sit for our readings

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 61:1 - 4, 8 - end

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁸ For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

My brothers and sisters, ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without
ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not
despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to
what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may
your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is
faithful, and he will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual hymn, sung by the choir

**Hills of the north, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
him who made earth and skies:
he comes in righteousness and love,
he 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,
he 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:
he 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 Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the longing earth be blest.**

The Gospel, John 1.6-8, 19-28

Alleluia! (x3)

All **Alleluia!** (x3)

I am the voice of the one crying out in the wilderness
"Make straight the way of the Lord"

All **Alleluia!** (x3)

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.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' ²¹And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' ²²Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

“Make straight the way of the Lord” ’,
as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him,
‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor
Elijah, nor the prophet?’ ²⁶John answered them, ‘I baptize with
water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one
who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his
sandal.’ ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where
John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you O Christ.**

The Sermon, the Revd Pat Southgate, Associate Priest

The affirmation of faith

We say together in faith

All **Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:

All **for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:

All **for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

All **the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession.

Please sit

One of these responses may be used

Lord in your mercy. or Lord hear us.
All **Hear our prayer.** **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The Intercessions may end as follows

Merciful Father.
All **Accept these prayers
for the sake of your son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

We stand and the President introduces 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.**

We are invited to exchange a (socially distanced) sign of peace.

The choir sing a hymn as bread and wine are placed on the Altar.

**Beauty for brokenness,
Hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering,
This is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
Justice, joy, peace,
Sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase.**

**Shelter for fragile lives,
Cures for their ills,
Work for the craftsman,
Trade for their skills.
Land for the dispossessed,
Rights for the weak,
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak.**

***God of the poor,
Friend of the weak,
Give us compassion we pray,
Melt our cold hearts,
Let tears fall like rain,
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame.***

**Refuge from cruel wars,
Havens from fear,
Cities for sanctu'ry,
Freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields,
Scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness,
His cross for the pain.**

**Rest for the ravaged earth,
Oceans and streams,
Plundered and poisoned
Our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
Carelessness, greed;
Make us content with
The things that we need.**

**Lighten our darkness,
Breathe on this flame,
Until your justice
Burns brightly again;
Until the nations
Learn of your ways,
Seek your salvation
And bring you their praise.**

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement; draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer (E)

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 saying:

All **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.**

We praise and bless you loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that

broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Lord of all life help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St.Peter, St.Osmund and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The consecrated bread and wine are raised in the sight of the people and the Sanctus bell is rung as we honour Christ's presence.

*After a moment's silence, please sit for the Lord's Prayer.
As our saviour taught us so we pray*

**All 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 President breaks the consecrated bread saying
Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,*

All we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

**All 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 President invites the people to receive Communion
God's holy gifts for God's holy people.*

**All Jesus Christ is holy. Jesus Christ is Lord.
To the glory of God the Father**

*All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a Blessing.
Due to the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic, Communion will be
given in one kind only. Please respect the distance of at least one metre
from others as you come forward, and form one line in the central aisle.
Please sanitise your hands before receiving the host.*

*Any visitors who are used to receiving Communion in another Christian
church are welcome to receive Communion here today. If you are not a
Communicant you are welcome to come forward for a Blessing. If you*

would like to receive a Blessing, please bring this service booklet with you. A Blessing will be given maintaining social distance.

The choir sing the following hymn

**Christ is the world's Light, he and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our Brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high.**

**Christ is the world's Peace, he and none other;
no one can serve him and despise another.
Who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.**

**Christ is the world's Life, he and none other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our Brother-
he who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high.**

**Give God the glory, God and none other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;
give God the glory, God in Man, my Brother:
Glory to God on high.**

After Communion we keep silence for a short while the President says this prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

We say together...

**We thank you Lord that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet.
Amen.**

Announcements are made

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

We remain seated as the choir sings our final hymn

**To God be the glory!
great things he hath done,
so loved he the world
that he gave us his Son;
who yielded his life
an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate
that all may go in.**

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear his voice;

praise the Lord, praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice:

O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory;

great things he hath done.

**O perfect redemption,
the purchase of blood!
to ev'ry believer
the promise of God;
the vilest offender
who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus
a pardon receives. *Refrain.***

**Great things he hath taught us,
great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing
through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher,
and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture
when Jesus we see.**

The Blessing.

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy, and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ.**
Amen.

The clergy process out as the choir sing again

*Gaudete, Gaudete Christus est Natus
et Marie a virgine Gaudete*