

# ST PETER'S PARKSTONE



*3rd Sunday of Advent  
10am on 12th December 2021*

## WELCOME TO ST PETER'S CHURCH, PARKSTONE

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, and it 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 as we are reminded of God preparing the way for the birth of Christ through the ministry of John the Baptist.

We are invited to support the work of St Peter's, to help us carry out our mission and ministry to our local community. A collection will not be taken during the service, but there is provision for us to make our offering as we leave St Peter's Church.

It is also possible to make an offering by clicking the 'donate' button on our website: [www.stpetersparkstone.org.uk](http://www.stpetersparkstone.org.uk) or scanning the QR code. Every donation is greatly appreciated, thank you.



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

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## THE GATHERING

*Please stand and sing, as the service begins with a hymn.*

**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 through 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. *Refrain.***

**Longing for food, many are hungry.**

**Longing for water, many still thirst.**

**Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. *Refrain.***

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.**

**Longing for warmth, many are cold.**

**Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. *Refrain.***

**Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.**

**Let us be servants to one another,**

**making your kingdom come. *Refrain.***

### The Greeting

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 informally, and then we turn to our Advent Wreath.*

God our Father,  
you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age  
a son called John.  
He grew up strong in spirit,  
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,  
and baptised them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.  
Help us, who have been baptised 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.

**All Amen.**

*As the third candle on our Advent wreath is lit, we say together:*

**All We light this candle to remind us of John the Baptist who passed on God's message "Get ready for your King."**

*Sing* **Holy John, straight and true  
Crying out, now to you  
See he comes, Jesus comes,  
Who will hear his message?  
Who will now make ready?**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?***

*The service continues with prayers of penitence.*

## 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.**

Confident in God's mercy we confess our sins.

*Silence is kept briefly*

Heavenly Father,

you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son:

forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord Jesus,

you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:

help us also to prepare your way.

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,

you speak through the prophets:

make us attentive to hear your word.

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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer and then says the Collect for the third Sunday of Advent:*

Let us pray that we might be good stewards of God's holy word.

*Silence is kept briefly.*

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.**

*Please sit for our readings*

<b>THE LITURGY OF THE WORD</b>
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*The Old Testament reading, Isaiah 12:2-6*

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength and my might;

he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day:

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;

make known his deeds among the nations;

proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;

let this be known in all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

For the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*The New Testament reading, Philipians 4:4-7*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

For the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as we sing our gradual hymn.*

**Like a mighty river flowing,  
like a flow'r in beauty growing,  
far beyond all human knowing  
is the perfect peace of God.**

**Like the hills serene and even,  
like the coursing clouds of heaven,  
like the heart that's been forgiven  
is the perfect peace of God.**

**Like the summer breezes playing,  
like the tall trees softly swaying,  
like the lips of silent praying  
is the perfect peace of God.**

**Like the morning sun ascended,  
like the scents of evening blended,  
like a friendship never ended  
is the perfect peace of God.**

**Like the azure ocean swelling,  
like the jewel all-excelling,  
far beyond our human telling  
is the perfect peace of God.**

*Please turn to face the Gospel Book as we welcome the Gospel.*

## Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Sing **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

*Sing **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

The Lord be with you.

*Sing **And also with you.***

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

*Sing **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.

**Sing Praise to you O Christ.**

*Please sit as we reflect on God's word.*

*Sermon - the Revd Sally Bedborough, Associate Priest.*

*Please stand as we declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

*The Creed*

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.**

*Please sit for our prayers.*

### Prayers of Intercession

Let us with confidence present our prayers and supplications to the throne of grace.

Lord in your mercy

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*The Intercessions end as follows*

Merciful Father

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

<b>THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT</b>
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*Please stand as the president introduces the peace.*

### 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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We remain standing as bread and wine are placed on the altar, and we sing our offertory hymn.*

### Preparation of the Table

O thou who camest from above,  
The pure celestial fire to impart,  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
On the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn  
With inextinguishable blaze,  
And trembling to its source return  
In humble prayer, and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
To work, and speak, and think for thee;  
Still let me guard the holy fire,  
And still stir up thy gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,  
My acts of faith and love repeat,  
Till death thy endless mercies seal,  
And make my sacrifice complete.

*The president offers prayer for the preparation of the altar.*

### Taking of the Bread and Wine

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  
*Sing* **and also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*Sing* **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 singing:

*Sing* **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.

*Sing* **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 among us.*

*After a moment's silence, please sit for The Lord's Prayer.*

### The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence, as our Saviour taught us

*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.*

## Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
*All* **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes**

*Sing* **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.*

## Giving of 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.**

*Words* The body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

*All are welcome to come forward to receive communion or a blessing.*

*Holy Communion will be offered in both kinds by simultaneous administration (intinction). Please receive with both open hands. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please bring this service booklet with you.*

*We remain seated to sing our post-communion hymn.*

**Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings within, and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea all I need, in thee to find,  
*O Lamb of God, I come.***

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
because thy promise I believe,  
*O Lamb of God, I come.***

**Just as I am, (thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down),  
now to be thine, yea thine alone,  
*O Lamb of God, I come.***

**Just as I am, of that free love  
the breadth, length, depth and height to prove,  
here for a season then above,  
*O Lamb of God, I come.***

### Prayers after Communion

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*

## SENDING

*Please stand as we sing our final hymn before we are sent out with God's blessing.*

**Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendour arrives;  
fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.**

***Make way (make way), make way (make way),  
for the King of kings (for the King of kings);  
make way (make way), make way (make way),  
and let his kingdom in!***

**He comes the broken hearts to heal, the pris'ners to free;  
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.  
*Refrain.***

**And those who mourn with heavy hearts, who weep and sigh,  
with laughter, joy and royal crown he'll beautify. *Refrain.***

**We call you now to worship him as Lord of all,  
to have no gods before him, their thrones must fall. *Refrain.***

### 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 Ministers and people depart.*

*Organ music: Prelude and Fugue in f sharp minor by Dieterich  
BUXTEHUDE (c.1637-1707)*