



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week commencing: 11th December 2022 ,

Third Sunday of Advent

As we celebrate our Christmas Tree Festival this weekend, on Sunday we have an 8.00 am service of Holy Communion and a 10 am Parish Communion service. We will worship God among the Christmas trees. At 6pm on Sunday evening everyone is warmly invited to the closing service of the tree festival in church, when we will have the opportunity to pay for all those who have sponsored and decorated trees. This service will be zoomed – use the Sunday morning zoom link.

The Collect

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.

Post 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.

A reading from Isaiah

1The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus
2it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

3Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. 9No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35. 1-10

The Gospel Reading

2When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' 4Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

7As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

11Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Matthew 11. 2-11

Sunday's Hymns:

- 32 O come o come Emmanuel
- 29 Hills of the north rejoice
- 24 Come, thou long expected Jesus

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- For space to keep Advent well.
- That our Christmas Tree Festival may be a blessing to all who come along and may go smoothly too.
- For the work of the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice.
- For Aaron and Laura Wilson as they move away.
- For the people of Ukraine and Russia, and for the UN. For all world leaders. For peace.
- For all who are worried and struggling with the cost of living, for those who are hungry, or who eat alone every day.
- For our ministry as part of the Warm Welcome scheme, and Thursday lunches.
- That we may embrace our ministry as an inclusive church, in every way.
- For our ministry with children and for our plans to appoint a Children and Family Leader.
- For our care for creation for our work towards becoming an Eco church.
- Those whose anniversary of baptism falls in December: Herbie Prater, Lily Edmonds, Arlo Ridley
- For all those who live and work in Alston Gardens.
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Tony Boaks, Howard Baxter, Julienne Grobler, Clarice, Andy, Dorothy Nicks, Ann Hockham, Pat Brooks, Andrew, Jim Mundy, Naila Watanabe,
- Valerie Bosley, Joan Lynch, Harry, Eunice Goodman, Robert Lewis, Joy Richmond.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Pamela Rivers
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in December: John Sheppard, Beryl Jenkins, Evelyn Rose, Roy Horsham, John Norris, Margaret Swansborough, Joan Parker, Dorothy Scott, Penelope Hutchings, Peter Brown, John Dickson, Anne Seagrove, Max Neale, Eileen Pond, David Sawyers, Robert Gardener, Peggy Harris, Colin Bowerman, Robert Gill, Pamela Barber, Sheila Mayers, Joyce Bryant, Isabella Monk, David Jones, Bernard Bowdery, Patricia Walker, Roy Goff, Jean Judd, David Jesson.

Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 11th December 2022:

Sunday	Psalm 68.1-19	Philippians 4.4-7	
Monday	Psalm 40	Isaiah 49. 14-25	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11
Tuesday	Psalm 70	Isaiah 50	1 Thessalonians 5.12-end
Wednesday	Psalm 75	Isaiah 51.1-8	2 Thessalonians 1
Thursday	Psalm 76	Isaiah 51. 9-16	2 Thessalonians 2
Friday	Psalm 98	Isaiah 51. 17 -end	2 Thessalonians 3
Saturday	Psalm 71	Isaiah 52. 1-12	Jude

Rotas for next week:

Sunday 18th December, Advent IV, Parish Communion, in church and on zoom

Read: Don Luff Intercede: Dorothy Strack-Hankey

Welcomers: Rachel, Helen and Carl Coffee: Lisa and Kim

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the flood lighting has been sponsored by Eunice Goodman:
"In memory of Charles"

To sponsor the floodlighting please fill in the form at the back of church or email:

admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk



Given rising fuel prices, it is suggested the minimum donation for weekly sponsorship is now £15.

Thought for the week:



We may have the twinkling lights of trees in church but this week's gospel reading is rather darker as we meet John the Baptist, fast forwarded to prison.

This reflection is from Roots on the Web:

This week we start with a searching question by John the Baptist, from what was (presumably) the dark dungeon in which he had been imprisoned by Herod. Perhaps that is what had triggered some dark thoughts. Had his ministry been in vain? Had he pointed his followers in the wrong direction when he directed them towards Jesus as the one who would follow him? The term 'dark night of the soul' is closely associated with another John – John of the Cross, a 16th-century mystic – and it has become associated for many with an experience that involves profound challenges to a person's

sense of who they are and what they believe. In the original poem where John of the Cross introduces this term, he embraces the experience as a time of transformation and spiritual growth. It has been noted by many that seeds generally germinate in the dark, and indeed some require the harsh cold of winter to start the process. The point is that this can be true of spiritual growth too. Sometimes it is only when we stop – or are forced to stop by some outside circumstance – that we allow ourselves to think. But it was only when John (the Baptist) voiced his questions and had his followers convey them to Jesus that they could be addressed! However, Jesus – somewhat like a modern politician – didn't directly answer the question. Rather, he gave John more food for thought. We don't know what conclusion John came to before his grisly end. But it is clear that this hero of the faith was learning more about the God he served and the Messiah he prepared the way for, right up to that point.

So, we may never be the finished article. We may go through many dark nights of the soul on many issues. It is said that Mother Teresa of Calcutta felt herself to be in a 'dark night' from 1948 almost up until her death in 1997, with only brief interludes of relief along the way. It has also been said that we should not forget in the dark what we learned in the light. Sometimes, perhaps, we need to remember in the light what we have learned in the dark!

What's on... This week:

Wednesday 7 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 10.00 am, Holy Communion, and coffee 10.30 am Board covering in church 6.00 pm, Trees siting – all help welcome at this and above
Thursday 8 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom NO Baby and Toddler group 2.00 pm Teas, in hall 10 am – 7pm TREE SET UP DAY 12.00 – 2.00 pm, Midday meals – open to all
Friday 9 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 10 am – 7pm Church open to view trees
Saturday 10 th	9.00 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 10 am – 7pm Church open to view trees
Sunday 11 th	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 am, Parish Communion Midday – 6pm, church open to view trees 6.00 pm, Christmas Tree Festival service
Monday 12 th	9.30 am, onwards, tree clear up day
Tuesday 13 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 9.30 am, St. Luke's School, Carol service, in church 11.00 am, Holy Communion, coffee
Wednesday 14 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 9.30 and 11.00 am, Clares Court Carol Services
Thursday 15 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 9.30 am, Baby and Toddler group party (bookings only) 3.00 pm, Keeping Company
Friday 16 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 5.00 pm, Evening Prayer, on zoom 8.00 pm, Choir
Saturday 17 th	9.00 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 9.30 am onwards, church clean, flowers, Love Christmas
Sunday 18 th	10.00 am, Parish Communion 7.00 pm, Carol Service (zoomed, use Sunday morning link)

Christmas

The Church of England's Christmas material is now available on its website, open this link to see it and to sign up for daily email reflections to 'follow the star'.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/follow-star-great-invitation>

There is also a beautiful invitation video to watch and share with friends – you will find it on this link – spoiler alert – you will need tissues!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uglkRXWOZak>

Christmas help

There are lots of things happening in church this Advent. If you are able to help with any of these please contact the office or Revd, Sally – thank you. (there is also a sheet to sign in church!)

Saturday 17th church cleaning etc, 9.30 onwards

Sunday 18th Carol service, 6.30 pm (7pm start)
Welcomers, Serve mulled wine and mince pies

Saturday 24th Crib services, 4pm / 5pm Welcomers

Love Christmas

This year we will not join with St. Peter's but will simply buy plants to take to people as a gift of love at Christmas. You can get involved by:

- Buying a small plant (poinsettia or cyclamen) and bringing to church before 7th December – with a plant saucer of some sort please
- Making a donation towards plants in the pot that will be in church
- Suggesting the names of recipients to Revd. Sally / the office
- Coming along on 17th December at 10 am to collect plants to deliver.

Sunday 18th December

**7.00 pm, Nine Lessons and Carols, by candlelight
followed by mulled wine and mince pies**

Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December

**4.00 (younger families) and 5.00 (older families) pm, Candlelit Crib Services
10.00 pm 'Midnight Mass'**

Christmas Day, Sunday 25th December

10.00 am, All Age Christmas Holy Communion

Getting the church ready for Christmas...

On Saturday 17th December, we will be making the church look beautiful for Christmas... flower arranging, cleaning cobweb removing, brass polishing...

Please do consider coming along to help – even if you can only give an hour... any time between 9.30 am and midday. Thank you.

Wednesday Holy Communion date change: please note that in the week beginning 12th December the midweek holy communion service will be at 11 am on Tuesday rather than Wednesday.

We are delighted to have been chosen by the **CoOp as a recipient of their Community Fund** for the coming year. By shopping in the CoOp now you can support this church.

St. Luke's Church is part of the @Coopuk Local Community Fund, to find out more about our project and to choose us as your cause, click here

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/68757> #ItsWhatWeDo

Our particular project is to redevelop the churchyard to make it a more useable community space for quiet and to support the natural environment.

Sundays at Six, this Autumn, All Services are at 6.00pm Zoom link: use Sunday morning

11 th December	Christmas Tree Festival Service, at St. Luke's
18 th December	Carol Services at each church at 7.00 pm

And next year:

8 th January	Evensong and Benediction, in church at All Saints
22 nd January	Night Prayer with reflection, on zoom Led by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
29 th January	Taizé service for Candlemas, in church at St Luke's
12 th February	Iona Evening worship, on zoom Led by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
26 th February	Eucharist for St. David, in church at All Saints
12 th March	Lenten Reflections, on zoom Led by St. Luke's
26 th March	Stations of the Cross, in church at All Saints (Passion Sunday)
2 nd April	Taizé service, in church Led by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green (Palm Sunday)
23 rd April	Easter reflections, on zoom Led by St Luke's

And on the 4th Sunday monthly: (except December)

3pm, Deaf Church, at Cox Green 4pm, Sundays at 4, at All Saints 4pm, Café church, at St. Luke's

Our Regular activities:

The 8.00 Holy Communion service will continue to be monthly, on the 2nd Sunday.

Midweek Holy Communion is at 10 am weekly, followed by coffee

Baby and Toddler group meets on Thursdays, 9.30 – 11.00 am. We meet in church.

Warm Welcome Thursdays midday – 2pm, a warm space in church to meet with others (or just be quiet and warm)and have a warm meal. Free, and open to all.

Messy Church continues on the first (usually) Friday, monthly, 4-5pm. Next, 3rd February. Email Revd. Sally to book a place.

Keeping Company is our monthly meeting for those bereaved (at any time). Third Thursday at 3pm, in church. The next is 15th December.

Thursday Teas meets in the community hall offering tea, cake and conversation. Second Thursdays monthly. Next is January.

Gaynor's Gift is a prayer shawl knitting ministry that anyone can take part in at home. We meet together monthly to pray, knit and drink tea. Both in church and on zoom, 4th Thursdays monthly. The next is January.

Please note that for all Zoom services the links below are being used:

Sunday Morning Worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87358197400?pwd=MTFxVINad1R6NEI6cVZ6TVJ5bGlzdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 5819 7400

Passcode: 526076

Zoom Morning Prayer at 8.30 am Tuesday – Friday, 9 am Saturday

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81459090925?pwd=Y2hKZkFYZ04zbGZBd1BHcmllldU5Hdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 5909 0925

Passcode: 180609

Zoom Evening Prayer at 5pm on Fridays (except first Friday)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88677688468?pwd=WnF3aEQ2dTdLYjB1dDEvQ2YwcTJJZz09>

Meeting ID: 886 7768 8468

Passcode: 132142