

Town Church St Peter Port, Guernsey



Sung Eucharist The Second Sunday of Advent 6th December 2020

Welcome to Town Church. Whether you are a regular or occasional visitor, we are pleased to have you as part of our worshipping community today. We hope you enjoy the service. Please join us for tea or coffee at the end of the service in the South Aisle

Bienvenue dans notre église dédiée à Saint-Pierre, mais connue sous le nom de "Town Church". Nous sommes heureux de vous accueillir à notre messe aujourd'hui. Nous espérons que vous apprécierez le service. Nous vous invitons à rester pour prendre le thé ou le café à la fin de la messe.

Laipni lūdzam St Peter Port baznīcā, ko sauc arī par Pilsētas baznīcu. Mēs priecājamies, ka esat izvēlējies (-usies) būt kopā ar mums šajā dievkalpojumā un ceram, ka Jums tas patiks. Lūdzam kopā ar mums iebaudīt tēju vai kafiju pēc dievkalpojuma.

Willkommen in unserer Kirche, die Sankt Petrus geweiht, aber als'Stadtkirche' bekannt ist. Wir freuen uns, dass Sie sich entschlossen haben, an unserer Eucharistiefeier teilzunehmen und hoffen dass Ihnen unser Gottesdienst gefällt. Bitte bleiben Sie am Ende noch bei uns zu Kaffee oder Tee.



For Those with Hearing Difficulties

If you are wearing a hearing aid you will find that you hear the service better if you turn your hearing aid to the "T" position.



Large Print Orders of Service

Please ask one of the sidespersons if you would like one.



Contactless Card payments

If you would like to make donations via contactless card/phone there is a machine by the door.

Communion

If you need communion bringing to you in your place, or require a gluten-free wafer, please ask one of the sidespersons before the service, who will be pleased to arrange this.

Music

The musical setting for the service is the Mass of the bread of life by Margaret Rizza, The Organist and director of The Town Church Choir is Stephen le Prevost

President The Revd Matthew Barrett Preacher: The Revd Peter Graysmith Deacon: The Revd Jill Mabire

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¶ The Gathering

Please stand to sing the opening hymn. (196)

Hark! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh!' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning, let the earth-bound soul arise; Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heav'n; let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiv'n.

So when next he comes with glory, wrapping all the earth in fear, may he then, as our defender, on the clouds of heav'n appear.

Honour, glory, praise and blessing, to the Father and the Son, with the co-eternal Spirit, while unending ages run.

Anonymous Latin Translated Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

The president says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

ΑII

The Greeting

The president greets the people

The Lord be with you. and also with you.

Further words of welcome are said

Prayer of Preparation

All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Second Sunday of Advent - The Prophets

We light the second candle to remind us of God's great promise first told by the prophets of old.

The first and second purple candles are lit

Loving God, your prophets spoke out in the darkness of suffering and loss, of a light coming into the world.

May we proclaim the light of Christ as we stand alongside the marginalised of your world, that they may find new strength and hope in you.

All Lord, make us one in the love of Christ today and for ever.

Amen.

We sing the following hymn

Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray, longing for the Day of Glory, 'Come, Lord, soon,' we say. Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness, changed for gladness on that Day.

Prophet voices loudly crying making pathways clear; glimpsing glory, self-denying, calling all to hear.
Through their message; challenged, shaken, hearts awaken:
God is near!

Prayers of Penitence

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

All Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Kyrie

We remain seated to sing the Kyrie



The president says

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.

Amen.

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

Let us pray.

ΑII

ΑII

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

6

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40.1-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

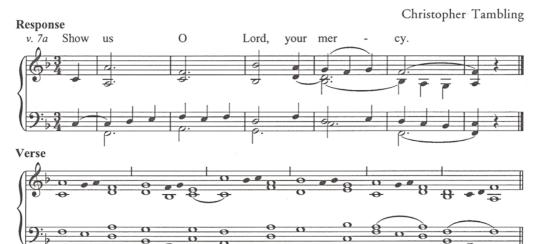
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ΑII

Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13

.M.



- 1 / Lord, you were gracious | to your land; you restored the fortunes | of Jacob.
 - 2 You forgave the offence | of your people and covered | all their sins.
 - 3 You laid aside | all your fury and turned from your wrathful | indignation.
- 2 4 Restore us again, O God our Saviour, and let your | anger cease from us.
 - 5 Will you be displeased with | us for ever? Will you stretch out your wrath from one generation | to another?
 - 6 Will you not give us life again, that your people | may rejoice in you?
 - 7 Show us your mer | cy, O Lord, and grant us | your salvation.
- 3 8 I will listen to what the Lord | God will say, for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful, that they turn not a | gain to folly.
 - 9 Truly, his salvation is near to | those who fear him, that his glory may dwell | in our land.
 - 10 Mercy and truth are | met together, righteousness and peace have | kissed each other;

- 4 11 Truth shall spring up | from the earth and righteousness look | down from heaven.
 - 12 The Lord will indeed give all | that is good, and our land will | yield its increase.
 - 13 Righteousness shall | go before him and direct his steps | in the way.

New Testament Reading

2 Peter 3, 8-15a

A Reading from the second letter of Peter

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1.1-8

Please stand and turn to face the Gospel reader

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

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

All, (sung) Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All, (sung) Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Revd Peter Graysmith

The Creed

Please stand when the president stands

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and was made human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel. At the end of each bidding the following response is used

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

And at the end this ending is used.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love.
By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand

ΑII

The president introduces the peace

In the tender compassion of our God, the day spring from on high shall dawn 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 and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn (73)

during the following hymn a collection is taken, the table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it. if you wish to donate, but do not have cash; contactless card/phone payments can be made after the service, by the door.

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow trav'llers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you in the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you; I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

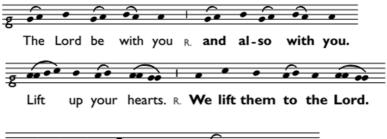
Richard Gillard (born 1953)

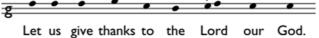
The president receives the prayer cards which have been left in the church by visitors during the past week.

We come to you, loving God seeking your grace, we offer to you the people of many different races, cultures and beliefs who have used this holy place in recent days. We bring before you the concern on their hearts, the thoughts in their heads and the situations for which they have prayed. And now we offer you our concerns that as we receive this sacrament of bread and wine; your grace may lead us on the journey which is before us. In Christ's name we pray.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer







R. 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:



Please sit or kneel

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

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

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, 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.

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

Great is the mystery of faith

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with St. Peter and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

A short silence is kept before we pray the Lord's Prayer in our first language whichever that may be.

Nous récitons le Notre Père dans notre langue maternelle.

Mēs lūdzam Tēvreizi katrs savā dzimtajā valodā.

Wir beten das Vaterunser in unserer Muttersprache.

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say, each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus taught us.

All Our Father, who art in heaven Notre Père....

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; Vater Unser....

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven. Mūsu Tēvs

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, Padre Nuestro....

as we forgive those

who trespass against us. Pai Nosso....

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.Onze Vader....

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory, Ein Tad....

for ever and ever.

Amen. Ojcze Nasz....

Breaking of the Bread

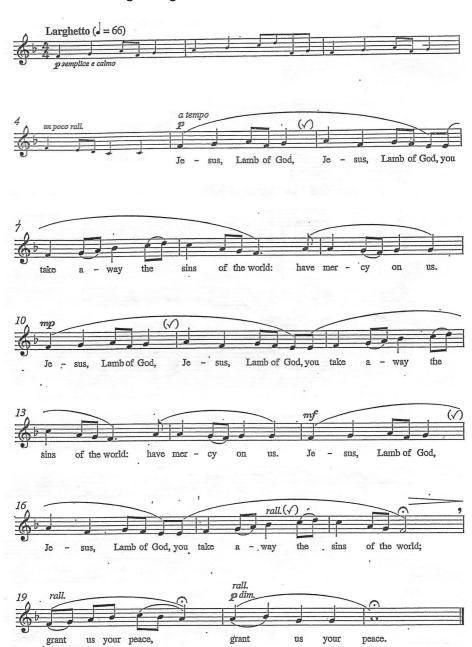
The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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.

Agnus Dei

We sing the Agnus Dei as the bread is broken.



us your peace,

your

Giving of Communion

The president says the following invitation to communion

The table of bread and wine is now ready. It is the table of the company of Jesus and all those who love him. It is the table of the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have struggled. Come.

All It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

All those who wish to receive communion are welcome to receive communion here today. Communion will be received in one kind (bread only). If you do not wish to receive communion, but would like a blessing please come forward with everyone else and hold this service booklet in your hands as an indication of this wish. If you do not want to do either of these then please feel free to stay in your seat. Communion may be received kneeling or standing as is your preference.

The president and people receive communion.

Please keep a prayerful silence for the duration of Communion to allow others to prepare to receive the sacrament and to pray afterwards.

Communion Anthem

During Communion the Choir will sing:

There is a flower - Rutter

Prayer after Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

ΑII

Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices are given

Final Hymn (401)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every breast from sin, make straight the way for God within, prepare we in our hearts a home, where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward; without thy grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thy hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand; shine forth, and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent sets thy people free, whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Ghost, for evermore.

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

ΑII

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ, Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Fantasia in G minor - | S Bach

Please join us for refreshments in the South Aisle

NOTICES

Christmas Hamper Raffle

As in previous years we will be holding a Christmas Hamper Raffle, Please consider donating food and drink items to fill the hampers, and please buy tickets for the raffle which will be on sale soon. The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 20th December

Christmas Market - Thursday 17th December 6 - 9pm

During late night shopping on 17th December there will be stalls in the church. We still need volunteers to help with this and also items for the Christmas hampers and bottles of wine for the Wedding at Cana stall. This is a great opportunity for us to engage with the local community and to raise some much needed funds. Thank you for your support.

Angel Tree Project

"ANGEL TREE" is the name for the Prison Fellowship's major project each Christmas, when we invite any prisoner with young children (up to 16 years of age), to write a Christmas card to them and choose a gift voucher to send as a Christmas present. We then buy the requested vouchers and send them, with the cards, to the children. This helps maintain the bond between the prisoners and their children and lets the children know that they are still loved and not forgotten however seldom they see the parent in prison. (The children do not all live in Guernsey.)

Any donations towards this are welcome. Please give to Penny Graysmith.

December Rota

Please take a copy of the December Rota and consider where you could volunteer to fill in the gaps. Thank you

What's on this week

Charity Christmas Tree Festival until 3rd January 2020

Morning Prayer (in church and online)

8.15 am Monday - Saturday

Evening Prayer (online)

5.30 pm Monday - Saturday

Tuesday 8th December

2-4pm Guernsey Caring for Ex-Offenders Afternoon

Wednesday 9th December

10 am – 12 pm Wednesday Welcome

Thursday 10th December

1.10 pm Said Eucharist Late Night Shopping

6 – 7 pm Elizabeth College choir singing carols Mulled wine and mince pies available Alzheimer's refreshment stall.

Next Sunday - 13th December

8 am Said Eucharist

The Revd Matthew Barrett

II am Sung Eucharist

President: The Revd Peter Graysmith Preacher: The Revd Matthew Barrett

6.30 pm Candlelit Choral Evensong

The Revd Jill Mabire

For more details about the life of Town Church

please visit our website

www.townchurch.net

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