

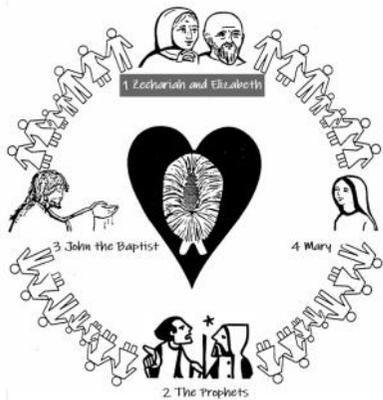


# ST JAMES' CHURCH, ISLINGTON N1 8PH

## 28 November 2021 ADVENT SUNDAY 21/45

Welcomer: Hilary Roden  
 Readers: Members of Junior Church  
 Interceder: Luigi Falcioni  
 Euch Min: Laura Roden  
 Coffee: Lucy Haire  
 Entry: NMP8 All earth was dark  
 2nd Song: NMP Father, you are changing me  
 3rd Song: CAHON162 Father, I place  
 Creed: AM403 We believe in God  
 Offertory: AM42 Longing for light  
 P-Comm: AM835 Goodness is stronger  
 Final: AM45 O come, O come E.  
 Mass: Mass of All Nations, Iona

**Collect: God our Saviour, you smooth our paths and calm our fears. Strengthen our wills so that as we look forward to your coming among us, we may grow in holiness and enjoy the hope which is your gift to all who love you. We ask this through him whose day draws near, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



**ADVENT SUNDAY** For us and for millions of our fellow Christians around the world, today marks the beginning of a new Church year; 'out with the old and in with the new'! We are all familiar with the lighting of different coloured candles as part of the Advent ceremonies and we are drawing on another tradition in these next four weeks, listening to the stories of those caught up in 'the waiting game', the time before the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. This week it is the slightly unsettling story of John the Baptist's parents Zechariah and Elizabeth; then the Prophets, John the Baptist and finally Mary the mother of Jesus. We are delighted that some of our

young people are reading the account for us for us today: I suspect they won't be the only ones who don't remember hearing this story before!



**SO EASY!** Last Sunday we were able to have the second of our trans-Atlantic link events when the Rector of Grace Church in Alvin, Texas and I 'swapped pulpits'. I don't know about them, but it worked so incredibly easily here: the Gospel reading finished, we all sat down and suddenly there on the screen was Suzanne - quite literally 'as if she was here'. So successful was it that more

than one person at Tuesday's PCC meeting said that they hoped we could extend this experiment and bring in a variety of preachers during the year. I am sure that we could - and we should! Having a variety of speakers is important and now that we have the technology to overcome the difficulty of having people preach here live (it isn't just Covid that has made us realise that there are simply fewer people available on Sunday mornings these days) it is just a matter of working out who to ask - and persuading them to take part!

**PCC MEETINGS** by zoom tend to be quite short but there were encouraging items to share. We heard how Tim Willis has kindly agreed to take over from

Alastair Hume as Assistant Treasurer and that we are able to meet our Common Fund payment to the Diocese in full next year (£85,200). While the completion of the Organ has had to be delayed slightly to May because of illness all the details seem to be on track. We also reported on the success of the 'Time to Dream' meetings so far.

**JUNIOR MUSIC GROUP** Lucy Haire is kindly organizing a performance of Silent Night as part of our Mass next Sunday. All children very welcome.

**TIME TO DREAM** I am very keen to spend time with every member of the congregation who would like to take part in the TTD process. We have eight weeks before the plenary session so please do ring/text/email me with your availability. I look forward to hearing from you.



**PACK-UP Donations** of male and female toiletries very welcome in the box underneath the signing-in table. Pack-Up Christmas Lunch is scheduled for Monday 20th December.

### THIS WEEK

Sun **ADVENT SUNDAY 8am Mass. 10am All Age PARISH MASS.**  
 Mon 10am Gemma Conlon discuss the baptism of her two sons. 2-5pm *James Potter rehearsal*. 6pm Mostyn and Nieve Goodwin TTD.  
 Tues 8.30am Morning Prayer. 9am Mass. 6pm Stu and Joemil Taylor prepare for the baptism of Sienna.  
 Wed 10am Mass. 2pm Visit by the steel surveyor. 7-8.30pm *Some Voices rehearsal*.  
 Thurs 11-1pm *Grace Nyandoro recording*. 3-5.30pm *Sophia Prodinova rehearsal*. 6pm Evening Prayer. 6.15-7pm Office session. 7-9pm *Cantallini*.  
 Sat 10-12noon *Ovidiu Music School concert*. 1-7pm *Carmen Karuse Music School concert*.  
 Sun 5 **ADVENT 2 8am Mass. 10am PARISH MASS and SUNDAY SCHOOL to include the Baptism of Arlo Goodwin.** 12-5pm *Heather Tuach rehearsal*.

### Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

Sun 28 **ADVENT SUNDAY YrC** Alex, Claire, Kaitlin and Oliver Church  
 Mon 29 **DEL Advent 1** Cyril Daley; Dennis Davis; Adam Dickson  
 Tues 30 **St Andrew Ap** Teresa Pereira, Richard, Mae and Ivy Dennison  
 Wed 1 **Charles de Foucauld** Sophie Duffy, James, Reggie and Olive Murphy  
 Thurs 2 **Feria** Amy Eldon-Richier, Scott, Freddie and Callum Kinch  
 Fri 3 **St Francis Xavier** Will Ellsworth-Jones; Lisa and Sonny Follett  
 Sat 4 **Nicholas Ferrar** Luigi, Jane, Luca, Francesca, Matteo and Gloria  
 Sun 5 **ADVENT 2** Weini and Ethan Faloppa; Wendy Fisher-Gordon

### PRAYER BOARD/NOTICES Requests for prayer welcome

**BIRTHDAYS** Best birthday wishes to Arlo Goodwin who will be 1 on Tuesday (and due to be baptised five days later!); and on Friday to Bella Wilson who will be 3.

**SICK** Christopher Browne, Stephanie Cowles, Jennifer Franich, Peter Freeth, Charity Garnett, Joyce Harvey (UCH), Kris Hyde, Hayley Jenkins, John, Kingsley Lewis, Ed Pereira, John Scott, Charlie Sharpe, Lyn Thompson and Tim Willis.

**MEMORIALS** Today: Anthony Hill, a former organist, (2015); 1st: John Russell; 2nd: Hotense Nazare (2004) and Donald Gau (2002); 3rd: Nicholas Wood (1998).

**INTERNATIONAL CHURCH LINKS IN THE US:** Mth Suzanne Smith, Rector of Grace Church, Alvin, Texas. Japan: Fr Sebastian and Yuki Naniwa serving in St Andrew's Church, Matsuyama, Diocese of Kobe.

**PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE** Many of you will have wondered why there has been so little progress in the case to get **Nazanin Zaghari**

**Radcliffe** released. With the Iranian Foreign Minister in London for COP26 there was every hope that talks could have restarted. There was even a debate in Parliament recently. Sadly our government seems unwilling to pay the £400million debt we owe Tehran and until that is settled there will be no progress but it also seems President Biden is against the move. We pray too for the extra-ordinarily brave Iranian human rights lawyer **Nasrin Sotoudeh**. Released recently to recover from a bad Covid infection picked up in the notorious Qarchak prison, she can be detained again at any time.



Open 12noon each Monday for hot lunches



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PARISH MASS  
for Advent Sunday (Year C)  
November 28th 2021

as streamed from  
St James' Church  
Islington N1

**SERVICE OF LIGHT and PARISH MASS  
for ADVENT SUNDAY - Year C**

**The Service of Light**

*The Church is in darkness. As we sing the hymn four candles are carried to the foot of the chancel steps - the first purple candle is lit; the other two purple candles and the pink candle are unlit. After they have arrived, a fifth candle, a white candle, is carried down the aisle to the chancel steps.*

Entry Hymn: **NMP8 All earth was dark**

*All earth was dark until you spoke,  
then all was light and all was peace.  
Yet still, O God, so many wait  
to see the flame of love released.*

*Lights to the world! O Light of man,  
kindle in us a mighty flame,  
till every heart, consumed by love,  
shall rise to praise your holy name.*

*In Christ you gave your gift of life  
to save us from the depth of night.  
O come and set our spirits free,  
and draw us to your perfect light. Lights to the world...*

*Where there is fear, may we bring joy,  
and healing to a world in pain.  
Lord, build your kingdom through our lives,  
til Jesus walks this earth again. Lights to the world...*

*O burn in us, that we may burn  
with love that triumphs in despair.  
And touch our lives with such a fire,  
that souls may search and find you there. Lights to the world*

(Words: J Daniels and P Thompson)

RI People of God: wake up. WAKE UP!  
One day - but we don't know when -  
God will return to this earth  
and will demand to know  
what we have done with our lives.  
Have we listened to him or have we gone our own way?  
Have we cared for other people  
or have we just done what we wanted to do?  
In this season of Advent  
God asks us to turn away from selfishness and sin  
and to be ready to receive the light of his love at Christmas.

While this next passage (R2) is being read, each of the candle bearers place their candles on the candle stand, first the lit purple candle, then a second unlit purple candle, then a pink candle, then another unlit purple candle and then, finally, the white candle

R2 Light up the Advent Candles;  
they stand for God's true Light.  
His Word is like a lantern  
to guide our feet aright.  
May we who bear these candles  
and by the Spirit's grace,  
allow our minds to focus  
on how to run life's race.

R3 (St Luke 1: 8-25, 39-45) Our story on this first Sunday of Advent starts in the Temple where the priest Zechariah was leading the prayers. While he was offering incense in the sanctuary he heard the voice of an angel. It made him very scared because he was frightened that God was cross with him. For many years he and his wife Elizabeth had wanted a baby of their own and he had prayed and prayed for this to happen. But no baby arrived. Was God punishing him for some reason? The angel said to him, 'Don't be frightened. God has heard your prayers and Elizabeth your wife will become pregnant after all. And your child will be a very special baby because God will use him to bring people back to faith. He will have the spirit of Elijah inside him and he will prepare the way for God's Son to come into the world'. But Zechariah was not convinced. 'I don't believe any of this', he said. 'Both Elizabeth and I are too old now to become parents!' The angel spoke to him again: 'I am Gabriel. I have spoken the truth, the words of God most high! But because you do not believe what I have told you, you will not be able to speak a word until the baby is born.'

2nd Song: **NMP389 Father, you are changing me** [1st time: solo; 2nd time: all]

**Father, you are changing me,  
by your Spirit you are making me like you.  
Father, you're transforming me,  
may your loveliness shine forth in all I do.**

**You are the potter and I am the clay;  
help me to be willing  
to let you have your way.  
Father, you are changing me,  
let your Spirit reign supreme within my heart.** (Words: Marilyn Baker)

R4 When Zechariah returned home from his time in the Temple, he could not say anything. His family knew that he had received a vision but he could not tell them what had happened. And that is how he stayed - for nine whole months!

Several miles away, Mary also had a vision. The message from Gabriel was that she too would be expecting a baby! So she left her own home in Nazareth and went as quickly as she could to the house of Elizabeth (and the silent Zechariah!) to tell them her good news.

And as Mary began to tell her sister what the angel had said, Elizabeth felt the baby kicking inside her. Even her baby was excited! "Mary, you have been truly blessed by God" Elizabeth said. "and you will always be remembered for the way you believed what the angel of the Lord said to you!" Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months before she returned home.

3rd Song: **CAHON162 Father, I place into your hands**

**Father, I place into your hands the things I cannot do.  
Father, I place into your hands the things that I've been through.  
Father, I place into your hands the way that I should go,  
for I know I always can trust you.**

**Father, I place into your hands my friends and family.  
Father, I place into your hands the things that trouble me.  
Father, I place into your hands the person I would be,  
for I know I always can trust you.**

**Father, I want to be with you and do the things you do.  
Father, I want to speak the words that you are speaking too.  
Father, I want to love the ones that you will draw to you,  
for I know that I am one with you.** (Words: Jenny Hewer)

R5 Six months later Elizabeth gave birth to a baby boy and she and her whole family, her friends and all the neighbours, were at her house. The big question was 'what will the new baby be called?' By tradition a first born son was given the same name as his father so they all assumed he would be called Zechariah.

But Elizabeth had been thinking about his name for some time and she said, 'He is not to be called Zechariah. He is to be called John'.

At once a fierce argument broke out: 'No one in your family has ever been called John!' they said. And so they turned to Zechariah and asked him what he would like to call his son. Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and to everyone's surprise he wrote, 'His name is John'. At once he was able to speak again. And those around him said, 'This is very strange. What is this child going to be when he grows up, for the Lord clearly has a plan for him.'

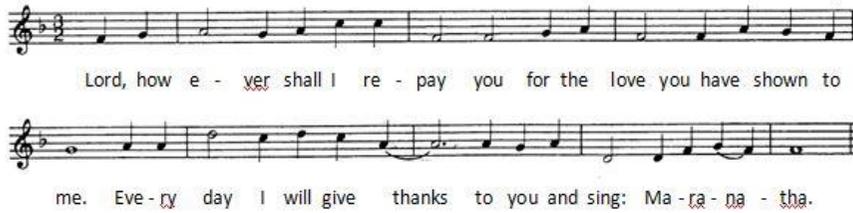
This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

- The story: choosing, calling, God doing the unexpected

A short pause while we reflect on all we have heard

Let us stand and welcome our Gospel

*Maranatha means 'Come Lord, come'!*



Lord, how e - ver shall I re - pay you for the love you have shown to  
me. Eve - ry day I will give thanks to you and sing: Ma - ra - na - tha.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

(St Luke 21: 25-36 CEV) At the end of Time there will be distressing signs in the sky, the moon, and the stars. On the earth people will be terrified by the roaring of the seas and the height of the waves. Some will faint from fear, worrying about what these things mean and what the future might bring. The natural world will be shaken to its core.

Then, when no one is expecting him, the Son of Man will come out of a cloud, full of power and glory. When these things begin to take place, do not be afraid for you will know that your life will be saved and your redemption is drawing near.'

Then Jesus told them this story. 'Look at any tree. As soon as the leaves begin to sprout you know that the summer is near. In the same way we can read the signs when these dramatic events are about to take place. Then you will know that the kingdom of God has arrived. Truly I tell you, nothing will change on the earth until the moment when the Son of Man returns. All kinds of spectacular things may happen but my words will never disappear.

Let me say again: watch out so that these events do not catch you unawares. Understand that the end of this age will come when you least expect it. Pay close attention, praying that you may have the strength to escape the terrors that may suddenly appear. Then you will be able to stand confidently before the Son of Man when he comes.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

- Watching and waiting for the end of the world

### The Confession

**Lord our God, we have avoided listening to your voice. Our attention vanishes like the morning mist. We forget your love and turn instead to all that is familiar in our lives. Have mercy on us and help us, with all your saints, to be ready for your coming in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Heavenly Father, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do his will and give us the joy of his everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We stand for the Credal Hymn: **AM403 We believe in God** [t CAHON172 Ode to joy]

**We believe in God the Father,  
God almighty, by whose plan  
earth and heaven sprang to being,  
all created things began.  
We believe in Christ the Saviour,  
Son of God in human frame;  
Virgin-born, the child of Mary  
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,  
like a lamb to slaughter led,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
he descended to the dead.  
We believe in Jesus risen,  
heaven's King to rule and reign,  
to the Father's side ascended  
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;  
in the Church, below, above:  
saints of God in one communion,  
one in holiness and love.  
So by faith, our sins forgiven,  
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,  
we shall rise with him in glory  
to the life that knows no end.**

(Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith)

### The Prayers of Intercession end with today's Collect

**God our Saviour, you smooth our paths and calm our fears. Strengthen our wills so that as we look forward to your coming among us, we may grow in holiness and enjoy the hope which is your gift to all who love you. We ask this through him whose day draws near, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Stand

The Peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy,  
ready for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: **AM42 Longing for light**

*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 food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. Christ, be our light! ...*

*Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. Christ be our light! ...*

*Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come. Christ, be our light! ...*

(Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell)

Remain standing

**At the Offertory**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
Fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become our spiritual drink.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, my friends, that our thanksgiving may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept this sacrifice from our hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Look upon us in mercy, O Lord, but not with judgement. Draw us from  
hatred to love and transform our prayer and praise so that it may serve as a  
dwelling place for your glory, and all for the sake of your only Son, our  
Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you. **and also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, all powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere  
to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When he humbled himself to come among us as a man, he fulfilled the plan  
you formed long ago and opened for us the way to salvation.

Now we watch for that day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be  
ours when Christ our Lord shall come again in his glory.

And so with all the choirs in heaven, we proclaim your glory and join in their  
unending hymn of praise:



**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of might and God of power.  
Glory fills all heaven and earth.  
Sing to him Hosanna.**

**Blessed is the one who comes  
In the name of Christ our Lord.  
Holy, holy, holy Lord.  
Sing to him Hosanna!**

How wonderful the works 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.

## Lord's Prayer

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.

Christ is the bread of life:  
**when we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

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 into 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 Mary the Mother of God, St James, 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 him, with him, and in him, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:



As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:  
**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.**

## Fraction

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.  
**Though we are many we are one Body,  
because we all share in the one bread.**

## Agnus Dei

*Lamb of God, you take our sins,  
take away our sins, Lord.  
So have mercy on us all,  
so have mercy on us. (repeated)*

*Lamb of God, you take our sins,  
take away our sins, Lord.  
Grant us peace, O grant us peace.  
Grant us peace for ever.*

## Invitation

Come and kneel at the altar of God, not because you are strong but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you the right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loves you and gave himself for you.

Lift up your hearts and minds above the cares and fears and let this bread and wine be to you the token of the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, all meant for you if you will accept them in humble faith; for this is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. Happy are they who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word  
and I shall be healed.**

## After Communion

## Blessing

Communion Hymn: **AM835 Goodness is stronger**

[Sung twice]

Good-ness is strong-er than e - - vil; love is strong-er than  
hate; — light is strong-er than dark - ness; life is strong-er than  
death. Vic - tory is ours, vic - tory is ours through him who  
Oh, vic - tory is ours, vic - tory is ours  
loved us. Vic - tory is us.  
through him who loved us. Oh, us.

Goodness is stronger than evil;  
love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness;  
life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours  
through him who loved us.

DESMOND TUTU (b 1931)

Music: JOHN L. BELL (b 1949)

## Post Communion

God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of Man when he shall return in glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Community Notices

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...

Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Final Hymn: **AM45 O come, O come Emmanuel**

[t Veni Emmanuel]

**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.**

**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:**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine Advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight:**

**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:**

(J M Neale, from the Latin)

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May God bless every £1 we give so that St James' will be here, not just for today and for tomorrow, but for the future he wants to create.