

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service
10th December 2023**

Advent 2 - Preparing for the Lord



Welcome

Call to Worship: based on Psalm 85

We come to worship the God of forgiveness,
who pardoned all our sins.

We come to worship the God who sent a messenger saying
**“Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make a straight path.”**

We will listen to what God has to say

– a voice that speaks of peace,

peace for the faithful,

those whose hearts are turned to God.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

Hymn: 279 Make Way, Make Way

Lighting of Advent Candle

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven.
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

The Peace: The Peace of Christ be with you
and also with you
(Let us share peace with one another)

Offering Prayer

Hymn: 543 Longing for Light, we wait in Darkness

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40 v 1-11

God's People Are Comforted

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
²Speak 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.

³A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4 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.
5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’
6 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.
7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
9 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!’
10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
11 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.

Anthem: A tender shoot Otto Goldschmidt

Scripture Reading: Mark 1 v 1-8

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you
who will prepare your way;
³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight"'.
"

⁴ John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ 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. ⁸ I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Hymn: 277 Hark, the glad sound

Sermon: Preparing for the Lord

Hymn: 291 When out of poverty is born

Presentation: Write for Rights Campaign (Undercroft Amnesty Group)

Prayers of the People

Hymn: 283 The voice of God goes out to all the world (Tune: Woodlands)

Blessing

Worship leader: Mrs Fiona Devoy

Reader: Rosemary Watson

Prayers of the people: Jane Brown

Musician: David Stewart

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