



The Parish of St Margaret, Holyrood, Prestwich

St. Margaret's, Prestwich & St. George's, Simister

Sunday 13th December – The Third Sunday of Advent

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.

Amen.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. S Ginn/J Knott

The servant of the LORD said: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. **61.1-4, 8-11**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. J Evans/R Ashurst

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. **5.16-24**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the

thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.
1.6-8, 19-28

[website-http://stmargaretsprestwich.wordpress.com](http://stmargaretsprestwich.wordpress.com)

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With regard to the Government's new COVID Tier system, we are now in Tier 3, which means we are again offering Sunday and Wednesday services back in St Margaret's Church (9.45am) and Sunday at St George's (11.15am). This is restricted to 30 social distances people at St. M's and 16 at St. G's. We need to adhere to all COVID -19 regulations. Face Coverings must be worn at all times whilst in Church. Please observe the 2-metre rule at all times & do not engage in any social gathering either inside or outside of church. Hand sanitise on entering & leaving church. PLEASE, DO NOT ATTEND if you feel UNWELL or HAVE EXPERIENCED ANY OF THE COVID SYMPTOMS in the past seven days. We will be receiving communion in one kind as we did prior to lockdown. Peregrini morning prayer (8.30am) and Compline (8.15pm) are on our Facebook page daily.
THANKS

Notices

1. Mother Union: Subs are now due. They are £25 + 50p donation to the deanery. You can post a cheque made out to St. Margaret's Mother's Union to Mary Simmons, 83 Heaton Street, Prestwich, M/CR M25 1HH or pop the money through my door or leave it in church. Thank you. Mary.
2. If anyone wants to give gifts for the toy service, they need to be new and unwrapped this year and can be brought to any Sunday or Wednesday service.
3. Thank you to all who supported Carol's virtual mini fair which raised £400 for Christmas charities.
4. I have now completed my LE to JOG trek. A huge thank you for your support and generosity. We have raised £3400 for cancer research UK. Thank you so much, Deborah.
5. Porch Boxes: As per last Lockdown, St Margaret's Church will be open between 9.30 and 11am on Thursday's for the Porch Box Donations. Many Thanks for your continued support.
6. Not too late to sign up for the Bible Course on, an 8-week series to learn more about the Bible. Mondays at 7 pm or Tuesdays at 2.30. Contact Rev Sue for the zoom details.
7. We will be open on Christmas day at St. M's (9.45am) and St. G's (11.15am). If you would like to attend please let Deborah, Sue, Laurel or David know.
8. A 'Blue Christmas' will be led by Carol O on Sunday 13th Dec On-line at 4.00pm

Please Pray For:

The Sick

Nigel Birtwistle, Paul Burgess, Barbara Bushall, Joyce Danso, Andrew Ginn, Joan Horgan, Sally Johnson, Maureen Jones, Claire Kelly, David Latham, Lisa, Darren Leadbetter, Robert Lyne, Millie Meeley, Alex Orr, Nicola Palliser, Musa Rashid, Brian Robinson, Leslie Sharpe, Richard Simmons, Maude Warren, Debra Ward, Yvette Wilton.

Ongoing Prayers for Healing & Wholeness

Elizabeth Ann Beck, Barbara Cass, Laraine Darlington, Philip Dawson, Marion Dixon, Rita Evans, The Gittins Family,

Becky Ginn, Audrey Handley, Bob Hardy, Mary & Colin Hargreaves, Peter Henry, Rev Paul Joyce, Matilda, Martine Rammell, Barbara Peeling, Tom Porter, Bill Potts, Joyce Roebuck, Susan Rowan, Alice White, Rev Pauline Whitmarsh, Rev Deborah.

Recently Departed

Anniversaries of Death

Clara Riley, George Smethurst, Doris Sullivan, Alan Waugh.

Columbarium Flowers:

Alice Bridge	Dec 14th
George Smethurst	Dec 16th
Alexander Orr	Dec 18th

HYMNS

Int 527- On Jordan's Bank
Grad 438- Make Way
Off 231- God's Spirit is in My Heart

Comm 674- This is My Body

Rec 506- Thou, Whose Almighty Word

IF YOU NEED ANY HELP OR SUPPORT PLEASE CONTACT REVD DEBORAH ON 01617732698 OR REVD SUE 07761565428 OR VIA ST. MARGARET'S WEBSITE

All Notices for next week's Service Sheet to be sent to David McConville no later than Tuesday please send to:- mcconvillefamily@uwclub.net 

