

COLLECT

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the LORD said: 1 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; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 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. 4 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. 8 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. 9 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. 10 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. 11 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.

For the word of the Lord **THANKS BE TO GOD**

PSALM Psalm 126

R The Lord has done great things for us

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R**

3 Then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'

4 The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. **R**

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. **R**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5.16–24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters, 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; 21 hold fast to what is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil. 23 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. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

For the word of the Lord **THANKS BE TO GOD**

GOSPEL John 1.6–8, 19–28

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John **Glory to Christ our Saviour**

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' 20 He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' 21 And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' 22 Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' 23 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. 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' 26 John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'

28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen**

BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The notices for the week are on the reverse of this sheet

—please pass it onto a friend or neighbour

This sheet is also on our website—let others know how to find it to follow week by week.





The Joint Charges of St Johns Johnstone & St Margarets Renfrew

The Scottish Episcopal Church United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway
St John's Church, Floors Street, Johnstone PA5 8QS St Margaret's Church, Oxford Road, Renfrew PA4 0SJ

National Tier 3 of lockdown

www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Facebook: [@stmargaretsrenfrew.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/stmargaretsrenfrew.org.uk) [@StJohnsJohnstone](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsJohnstone)

Twitter: [@JohnsJohnstone](https://twitter.com/JohnsJohnstone)

Zoom/Telephone is Tel:01314601196 Meeting ID: 832 4184 0407

Passcode: 076546 or use the link on the newsletter or website



Worship today ADVENT 3—Gaudate Sunday

0945 Said Eucharist with Litany at St Johns
1130 Said Eucharist with Litany at St Margarets

Both services are recorded and made available on our YouTube Channel at about 4pm on Sunday

<http://tinyURL.com/SECStJohnStMargaret>



7pm Light a Candle and place it in your window as we pray for the Nation using the prayer on the Intercessions leaflet each week



Intercessions

The sick and in need we have promised to pray for: Liz Fairns, Elsbeth Carberry, Sandra Ferguson, Pauline Campbell, Alasdair Woods, Jenna McKernan, Audrey Callaghan, Adam Semple, Margaret Kerrigan, May Burton, Joan Harrison, Isobel Reid, Adrian Bull, Isobel Trail, Ellen Jones, Isabel Cummings, Sue Graham, Margaret Gibb, Lisa in Oxford, Carol, Joanna

The Departed: none

We pray for aid Charities helping refugees and asylum seekers
We pray for people facing hospital treatment at this time
We pray for all those working to vaccinate the nation
We pray for each other as we get ready for our Christmas this year
Covid19 prayers in the Weekly Intercession leaflet

Monday 14 December—comm—John of the Cross, Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1591

Tuesday 15 December—feria

Wednesday 16 December—feria

2pm Telephone Church

....use the details on the newsletter for both....

7pm Zoom/Telephone Communion Service



Thursday 17 December—feria

NO Advent group as previously advertised in the newsletter

Friday 18 December—feria

7pm Nine Lessons and Carols

using the zoom details above

Saturday 19 December—feria

Next Sunday—**ADVENT 4 with Christingles**

0945 Said Eucharist with Litany at St Johns
1130 Said Eucharist with Litany at St Margarets

This weekend it is announced that **Lisa Curtice will become the Renfrewshire Regional Curate** from Michaelmas 2021 when she is ordained deacon. Lisa will remain with us until Pentecost and then return to the Region in October 2021 for 3 years. She will train in all the Charges of the Region overseen by the Dean and Regional Clergy Rev Willi & Rev Debbie.

Your ADVENT OoF keep sending in pics of your stained glass windows.... All photos will be added to the website

Lisa Curtice our Ordinand can be contacted SEIstudent@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk



Christingle

ORANGE

the world

RED TAPE

God's love for the world

CANDLE

Jesus - he shines on what God is like

4 COCKTAIL STICKS

4 corners of the world

SWEETS

the good gifts that God gives us



Worth waiting for!

Weekly downloads from
www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk
Pewsheets & Intercessions & Reflection
Praying at home together

Live-streaming **Morning Prayer 9am & Evening Prayer 530pm** Monday to Friday

Service words are found at

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices/>

The live stream is at
<https://tinyurl.com/SECStJohnStMargaret>

As our church buildings are opening again please ensure you keep others safe by observing social distancing. Please do not attend if you feel unwell, or have COVID19 symptoms



LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE—JOY

We lit the first candle to pray for hope. We lit the second candle to pray for peace. We light the third candle to pray for joy, for ourselves and for everyone. We give thanks for the beauty of joy and the way it comes to us when we don't expect it. We pray for everyone who feels no joy. May they find some hint of joy that shines like this candle flame.

Lord Jesus Christ,
joy of the hearts that know you,
fill us and all your world with joy.
Come close to us this Advent. Amen



Church Contacts

The Rector: Reuben Preston, 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 ORD 07971 895897

Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Items for inclusion should be sent to
Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk
by 0900 on Wednesdays.

To ask about arrangements for Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms/Christenings, Confessions, House Blessings etc. please contact the Rector

Sponsorship: in prayer for people waiting for hospital treatments at this time

If you would like to sponsor this sheet please send you £5 donation to the Rector along with details of the sponsorship (even if anonymous)