

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**

Responsorial PSALM Psalm 126

Response: 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**

will melt with fire? 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

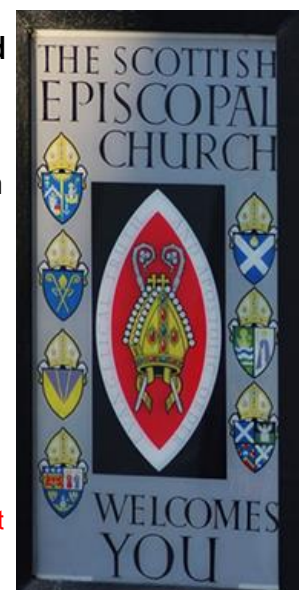
Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

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 take this pewsheet home & pass it onto a friend or neighbour





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

All Sunday services are being streamed live this week

we are online at www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Facebook: [@stmargaretsrenfrew.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/stmargaretsrenfrew.org.uk) [@StJohnsJohnstone2023](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsJohnstone2023)

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

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



Worship today—17 December **Advent 3**

0945 St Johns Sung Eucharist—Rector & Curate

Music at St Johns: LITANY—631—(LP 546)—759—405

1130am St Margarets Sung Eucharist—Rev Godfred & Rector

Music at St Margarets: LITANY—851—(LP 546)—303—405

1pm St Margarets Christmas Meal at Glynhill Hotel

4pm Closing Event and Prize Giving at the St

Johns Christmas Tree Festival with the Provost of Renfrewshire

Monday 18 December—feria

1-3pm Taking down the the Christmas Trees at St Johns

Tuesday 19 December—feria

630pm St Johns Vestry in the St John's Room

Wednesday 20 December—feria

St Johns 2pm Said Eucharist —Curate

St Margarets 7pm Said Eucharist—Rector

Thursday 21 December—festival- Thomas, Apostle

1200noon Clergy Team Christmas Meal

Friday 22 December—feria

9am St Johns—Nursery Nativity Celebration

Saturday 23 December—feria

Next Sunday 24 December

Sunday AM—**Advent 4**

0945 St Johns Sung Eucharist—Curate

Music at St Johns: LITANY—634—(LP 546)—631—759

1130am St Margarets Sung Eucharist—Rev Godfred & Rector

Music at St Margarets: LITANY—343—(LP 546)—442—631

Sunday PM—**Christmas Eve**

1500hrs St Johns Crib Service with Christingles—Curate

2000hrs St Margarets Christmas Eve Eucharist—Rector &

Rev Godfred

Monday 25 December—Christmas Day

1030 St Johns Sung Eucharist—Curate & Rector

Wednesday 27 December—Festival— St John the Evangelist

St Johns Patronal Festival 2pm Said Eucharist —Curate

Blue evening Service at St Margarets

Intercessions

The sick and in need we have promised to pray for: Eleanor Hart, David Fowles, Liz Fairns, Pauline Campbell, Audrey Callaghan, Adam Semple, May Burton, Adrian Bull, Isobel Trail, Isabel Cummings, Moira Bruce, Neil Barclay, Veronica Whitelock, Jeanette Farquhar, Margaret Keys, Emily Parker, Sam Aaron, Andrew Mitchell, Raymond Bruce, Olly Mitchell, Joe Smith, Nan Grimstead, Eric Parker, Brian Angus, Geraldine Revie, Brenda Sproule, Hugh Smith, Donna Skalley, Kay Cherie

The Departed: none

Cycle of Prayers in the Weekly Intercession leaflet

Weekly downloads the PEWSHEET, the INTERCESSION SHEET, the GOSPEL REFLECTION from

www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

The Daily Offices can be followed on the provincial website at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices/>



9am Morning Prayer on zoom this week

Pastoral Assistants Support every week: please call Wilma 07714 525726, Rev Lisa Curtice 07802 888423 or Rev Robert Chambers 07968 279351 Rev Godfred 07466 608715

St Johns Christmas Tree Festival—St Johns is collecting for St Vincents Hospice. See www.stvincentshospice.org to find out more about their work and caring

St Margarets is collecting for CRISIS during Advent and Christmas. The Christmas nativity scene lights will go up for Advent Sunday. Sponsorship forms will be in church and on the website next week. See www.crisis.org.uk to learn about their work and the way they help people.

Sponsor the Christmas Lights—£5 a day—give/ send your money and message to the Rector



Church Contacts

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

Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Regional Curate: Lisa Curtice 07802 888423 renfrewshirecurate@glasgow.anglican.org

Hon Assistant Priest: Robert Chambers 07968 279351

NSM Assistant Priest: Godfred Nyarko 07466 608715

Items for inclusion should be sent to

Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

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

Sponsorship: we pray for Peace in the Holy Land

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)