

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 Zephaniah 3.14–20

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing 18 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. 19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

Responsorial PSALM Isaiah 12.2–6

Response: Shout aloud and sing for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. 3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R**

4 And you will say on that day:

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. 5 Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 4.4–7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near.

6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

GOSPEL Luke 3.7–18

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to Christ our Saviour

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

10 And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?'

11 In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'

12 Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?'

13 He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.'

14 Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' 18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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 pewsheets home & pass it onto a friend or neighbour.

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

St Margarets Carol Service
7pm Friday 20 December
followed by refreshments





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—15 Dec Advent 3

0945 St Johns Litany & Sung Eucharist—Rector

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

1130am St Margarets Litany & Eucharist—Rector

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

followed by Christmas Meal at Luna Rossa 1pm-ish

Monday 16 Dec—feria

Tuesday 17 Dec—feria

Wednesday 18 Dec—feria

St Johns 2pm Said Eucharist—Rector

St Margarets 7pm Said Eucharist—Rector

Thursday 19 Dec—feria

Friday 20 Dec—feria

7pm Ecumenical Carol Service St Margarets

Saturday 21 Dec—festival—Thomas, Apostle

Next Sunday 22 Dec Advent 4

0945 St Johns Litany & Sung Eucharist—Rector

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

1130am St Margarets Litany & Eucharist—Rector

Music at St Margarets: Litany—634—(LP 546)—442—631

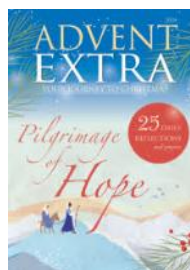
Renfrewshire Carers

St Margarets is collecting for the Renfrewshire Carers group. Sponsor the Nativity lights for £5 a day and have your designation put on the website. There will be a retiring collection each service until Epiphany.

There are only a few days left to sponsor take a look at our website www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk for the

full list.

Copies of **ADVENT EXTRA** are available £3 each as we reflect on the season of advent messages with reflection and prayer pointers.



St Johns Christmas Raffle tickets from Olive and the draw will be on Sunday Advent 4 after the service.



Intercessions The sick and in need we have promised to pray for: David Fowles, Liz Fairns, Audrey Callaghan, Adrian Bull, Moira Bruce, Neil Barclay, Veronica Whitelock, Emily Parker, Sam Aaron, Raymond Bruce, Olly Mitchell, Joe Smith, Eric Parker, Geraldine Revie, Brenda Sproule, Ruby Robertson, Anna Gatherer, Craig Cameron, Andy Doig, David & Trixie Preston, Gloria & Chris Nelson, Scott Taylor, George Wilmshurst, Judith Thorley, Josephine Lynch

The Departed: none

The Elderly and Infirm unable to get to church: Isabel Cummings, Isabel Reed, Kay Charrie, May Burton, Pauline Campbell, Nan Grimstead, Gill Reynolds

Cycle of Prayers in the Weekly Intercession leaflet online



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

www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Pastoral Assistants Support every week:

please call Wilma 07714 525726 or Rev Robert Chambers 07968 279351

St John's needs a Treasurer, a Property Convenor and a Vestry member to ensure it reaches its Constitutional requirements

St Margarets: 1 post on the Vestry need filling and this will be by co-option

Ecumenical Carol Service Friday 7pm at St Margarets—carols and readings for the season followed by refreshments



Holy Communion at home or in hospital—please contact the Rector if you are unable to get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion where you are.

"Building a Future for St Johns" total so far to be announced on Christmas Day as we celebrate St Johns being 150 years old on Christmas Day—we shall mark it at the service at the 1030am

Church Contacts

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

Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Hon Assistant Priest: Robert Chambers 07968 279351

Items for inclusion on this sheet 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: we pray for the Preparatory Committee interviewing potential candidates to be our Bishop this week

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)