

Advent 3

Sunday 14 December 2025

when you have finished with this sheet pass it on to someone unable to get to church today

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 35.1–10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, 2 and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Responsorial PSALM Luke 1.46b–55

Response: My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

46 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; 47 My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, 48 For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant; from this day all generations will call me blessed. 49 The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. **R**

50 He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. 51 He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **R**

52 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent away empty. **R**

54 He has come to the help of his servant, Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy. 55 The promise he made to our forebears: to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

SECOND READING James 5.7–10

A reading from the letter of James.

7 Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

9 Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10 As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL Matthew 11.2–11

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' 4 Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." 11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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

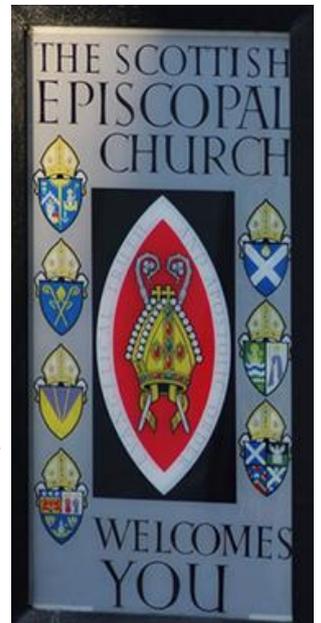
Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

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.





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—14 December ADVENT 3

0945 St Johns Sung Eucharist—Rector

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

1130am St Margarets Sung Eucharist—Rector

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

4pm Opening of the Christmas Tree Festival - Carols in the Trees - dress in a Christmas jumper or hat if you can!

Monday 15 December—comm-

John of the Cross, Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1591 (transferred from 14 December)

Tuesday 16 December—feria

11am-2pm Christmas Tree Festival & Tea and Toast at St Johns

Wednesday 17 Dec—feria

11am-2pm Christmas Tree Festival
2pm St Johns Said Eucharist

7pm St Margarets Said Eucharist

Thursday 18 December—feria

11am Turning Point Carols at St Margarets

11am-2pm Christmas Tree Festival & Tea and Toast at St Johns

Friday 19 December—feria

7pm Licensing of Rev Chuks Iwuagwu as P-in-C of Motherwell & Wishaw

Saturday 20 December—feria

Next Sunday 21 December ADVENT 4

0945 St Johns Sung Eucharist—Rector

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

1130am St Margarets Sung Eucharist—Rector

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

4pm Carols by Candlelight at St James RC Church

Sponsor St Margarets Xmas lights at £5 a day

give your details to the Rector. All money going to the Renfrewshire Womens Refuge Aid



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

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, Ruby Robertson, Craig Cameron, Gloria & Chris Nelson, Scott Taylor, George Wilmshurst, Judith Thorley, Josephine Lynch, Fred Thorley, Ellen Reilly, Sarah Anne and Robert Alcorn, Tosh Lynch, Anna Gatherer
The Departed: none
The Elderly and Infirm unable to get to church: Isabel Reed, Kay Cherry & family, May Burton, Pauline Campbell, Nan Grimstead



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

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.

During Advent St Margarets will be raising money for **The Renfrewshire Womens Refuge** and at St Johns we shall be raising money for **St Vincent's Hospice**.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

3pm St Johns Crib Service & 8pm 'Midnight Eucharist' St Margarets

Christmas Day

10am St Johns Christmas Day Eucharist

TEA AND TOAST
AT THE TREES OF HOPE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL.

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH FLOORS STREET, JOHNSTONE
TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER
THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER
TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER
11AM - 2PM
ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL

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.

Sponsorship: we pray for generosity in our giving to those in need

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)