

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.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, 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. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 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." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 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; 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. 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. 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. 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.

PSALM OR CANTICLE

Either **Psalm 146:4-10**

R *The Lord shall reign for ever.*

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
Who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong
and bread to those who hunger. **R**

The Lord looses those that are bound;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous; **R**

The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow;
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.
The Lord shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Alleluia. **R**

Or **Luke 1:46b-55 (Magnificat)**

R *My soul doth magnify the Lord.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me
and holy is his Name. **R**

And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm
he hath scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts. **R**

He hath put down the mighty from their seat
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things
and the rich he hath sent empty away. **R**

He remembering his mercy hath holpen
his servant Israel
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever. **R**



SECOND READING James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of James.

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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." 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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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.' 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."

POST COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.



The Lord shall reign for ever - er.

Diary Dates for Sunday 14th December 2025 onwards

Sun 14 th	Advent 3		
	9.00am 10.30am 3.00pm	St M St G St G	Parish Eucharist: Parish Eucharist: Welcomer: Margaret, Crucifer: Mark B, Readers: Susan & Linda M, Intercessions: Paul, Coffee: Dianne and Erna Reflect , a quiet reflective time of stillness
Mon 15 th	5.00pm	Zoom	Evening Prayer
Tue 16 th	9.30am 10.00am 1.30pm 5.00pm 7.00pm	SH St G St M LC	Coffee Pot Parish Eucharist Valley Bridge School Christmas Service Evening Prayer CiT Carols at the Pike – Check before you go!
Wed 17 th	8.15am 5.00pm	Zoom LC	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
Thu 18 th	10.00am 10.15am 10.30am 5.00pm	SH St G St M LC	Thursday Club – last meeting in 2025 Thursday Club will restart on Thursday 8 th January Harewood Junior School Christmas Service Parish Eucharist No Art Group until 8 th January Evening Prayer
Fri 19 th			Schools break up for Christmas/New Year break Last Foodbank collection of the year Candlelit Carol Service – Parking at Valley Bridge School off Stroud Road
Sat 20 th			
Sun 21 st	Advent 4		
	10.30am 4.00pm	St G St G	Parish Eucharist; Welcomer: Darrell, Crucifer: David, Readers: Sylvia C & Paul, Intercessions: Derek, Coffee: Volunteers please Family Carol service No Evensong at St Margaret's

St G = St George's, St M = St Margaret's, MH = Main Hall, SH = Small Hall, SL = Softley Lounge, LC = Lady Chapel

We pray for: Peter, George, Terry, Phil, Sarah, Andy and children, Paul and children.

Hymns at St George's: 631 Tell out my soul: 303 I cannot tell: The angel Gabriel: 672 Thine be the glory:

Reflect: Please do come along to St George's Today at 3.00pm for quiet contemplation, stillness and prayer. Gioia has more information.

Explore Christmas: Thank you to all those who helped with Explore Christmas – we welcomed nearly 550 children into our church!

No Evensong: There will be no Evensong on Sunday 21st December as St George's Carol Service begins at 4.00pm.

Christmas Cards: Stella and Stuart have had a lovely idea of instead of sending individual Christmas cards this year, you could donate to our replacement heating fund in exchange for a message to everyone on our screens. Give your message and donation to David!

Church Office: Will be closed on Friday 26th December but will be open on Monday 29th December and closed on Friday 2nd January.

Foodbank: There is a green collection tray at the back of St George's Church. **The last collection before Christmas will be on Friday 19th December and resume on Friday 2nd January.** This week the Foodbank are in **URGENT** need of **Biscuits, Long-life juice, Long-life milk, Pasta packets (microwavable), Tinned chicken, Tinned curry and more.** Or you can check for the latest needs on www.glooucester.foodbank.org.uk
Thank you.

CONTACTING US:

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