



St Margaret's Church

The parish of Oxford Ss Philip & James with St Margaret

Sunday, 15th December 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to St Margaret's, especially if you are visiting or worshipping with us for the first time.

Notices

New Electoral Roll Forms available at the 10.30am service or online at stmargaretsoxford.org/electoral-roll

Help needed at St Margaret's – if you can help with readings, intercessions and refreshments speak to Frances.

Beer & Carols at Rose & Crown on North Parade, Tue 17 Dec at 7:30pm (18+)

Advent Compline by Candlelight every Weds at 8.00pm from 4 Dec at St Giles'

SMI Tea & Talks – Chaucer's Wife of Bath talk Wed 8 Jan 1.30pm

Benjamin Grønlie Concert at St Giles' Today 4.00pm – tickets online

Benefice Magazine Winter Edition available online.

Daily Prayer at St Giles':

- Morning Prayer Tue – Fri at 8.30am
- Evening Prayer Mon – Sat at 5.30pm

Services on Sunday 22 December

8:00am – **Holy Communion** at St Giles'
10:30am – **Parish Eucharist** at Phil & Jim
6:30pm – **Carol Service** at St Giles'

For contact details and full notices, please visit our website:

www.StGilesStMargarets.org

10:30am

Parish Eucharist at Phil & Jim School

(Common Worship, sung)

President and Preacher:

Revd Liz Carmichael

Deacon:

Revd Claire Browes

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.

Advent Wreath Song

*The holly and the ivy
Are dancing in a ring,
Round the merry Advent candles
And the bright and shining King.
O one is to remind us
To wake from sleep and sing,
We are waiting for Christ Jesus,
We are waiting for our King.
And two are for the prophets
And for the light they bring,
They are candles in the darkness
All alight for Christ the King.
And three for John the Baptist,
He calls on us to sing,
"O prepare the way for Jesus Christ,
He is coming, Christ our King."*

Opening hymn:

*Hills of the north, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
him who made earth and skies:
he comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the southern seas,
sing to the list'ning earth,
carry on ev'ry breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the east, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost west,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heav'nly guest
in whom the dawn has come:*

*he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.*

*Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in ev'ry mouth,
lo, from the north they come,
from east and west and south:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the sons of earth be blest.*

*Tune: Martin Shaw (1875 – 1958)
Words: C E Oakley (1832 - 1865)*

Zephaniah 3.14-20

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.

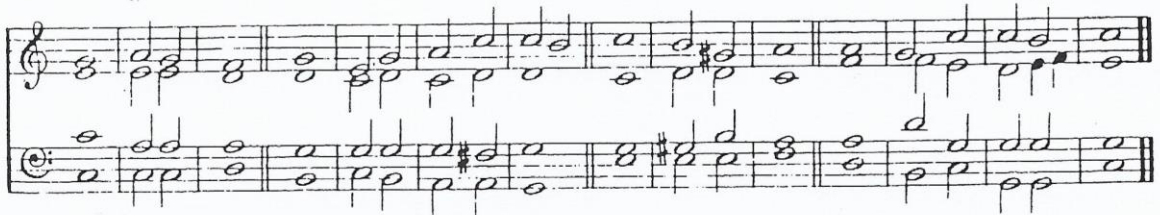
²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;

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.

Isaiah 12.2-6

E. J. HOPKINS



- 1 Surely God is | my sal- | vation:
I will | trust . and will | not . be a- | fraid.
- 2 For the Lord God is my | strength . and my | might:
— | He . has be- | come . my sal- | vation.
- 3 With joy will you draw water from the | wells of . sal- | vation:
And you will say on that day, Give | thänks | to the | Lord.
- 4 Call on his name; make known his | deeds a- . mong the | nations:
Pro- | claim . that his | name is . ex- | alted.
- 5 Sing praises to the Lord, for | He has . done | gloriously:
Let this be | known in | all the | earth.
- 6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal | Zion:
For great in your midst is the | Holy | One of | Israel.

Philippians 4.4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 3.7-18

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? ⁸Bear 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. ⁹Even 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?' ¹¹In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' ¹²Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' ¹³He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' ¹⁴Soldiers 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. ¹⁷His 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.

Offertory hymn:

*On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!*

*Then cleansed be every Christian breast;
And furnished for so great a Guest.
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.*

*For Thou art our Salvation, Lord,
Our Refuge, and our great Reward.
Without Thy grace our souls must fade
And wither like a flower decayed.*

*Stretch forth thine hand, to heal our sore,
And make us rise to fall no more;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.*

*All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Holy Ghost, forevermore.*

Music adapted from a chorale in Musicalisches Hand-Buch Hamburg 1690

Words: Charles Coffin (1676 - 1749)

Tr John Chandler (1808 - 1876)

Communion Anthem:

This is the record of John

Orlando Gibbons (1583 - 1625)

*This is the record of John,
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,
Who art thou?
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,
I am not the Christ.*

*And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not.
Art thou the prophet?
And he answered, No.*

*Then said they unto him,
What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
What sayest thou of thyself?
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Make straight the way of the Lord.*

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.*

Final hymn:

*Ye servants of the Lord,
each in his office wait,
observant of his heavenly word,
and watchful at his gate.*

*Let all your lamps be bright,
and trim the golden flame;
gird up your loins as in his sight,
for awful is his name.*

*Watch! 'tis your Lord's command,
and while we speak, he's near;
mark the first signal of his hand,
and ready all appear.*

*O happy servant he
in such a posture found!
he shall his Lord with rapture see,
and be with honour crowned.*

*Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise that faithful servant's head
amid the angelic band..*

*Melody from Leisentritt's Catholicum Hymnologium Germanicum 1584
Adapted by W H Havergal 1793 – 1870 from the Coln Gesangbuch 1619
Words: Philip Doddridge (1702 – 1751)*

Please do stay behind for refreshments after the 10:30 service, served at the back of the hall.

6:30pm Choral Evensong at St Giles'

(Book of Common Prayer, sung)

Please join us at St Giles' this evening for Evening Prayer.

Prayer Requests

Sick: Katharine, Julia, Caroline, Christina, Edward, Ian, Rosemary

Year's Mind:

17th – Deborah Kirkwood (2010)

19th – Barbara Sanders (2012)

19th – Yvonne Hands (2013)

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CHURCH

The work of St Margaret's is largely funded by donations from members of the congregation and the public – we receive no funding from national or local government, nor the Church of England at national or diocesan level.

You can donate through the links here:



<https://bit.ly/3yuuQva>