

# THE PARISH OF THAMES

*Welcomes you to*

## ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

*Sunday, 22nd December, 2019*

*4th Sunday Of Advent*

"Today we light the first, second, third and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is **HOPE**, the second candle is **PEACE**, the third candle is **JOY**, and the fourth candle is **LOVE**.

*The candle is lit.*

**John 13:34** - Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **Amen.**

**Prayer:** "Loving God, Your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive Your love; and following the example of Your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, Who loved us to the end. **Amen.**"

### **Opening Hymn: On Jordan's Bank**

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 breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.

For Thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward;  
without Thy grace we waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out Thy hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let Thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee whose advent doth Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.

### **Opening Prayer**

Into this season of expectation,  
into the bustle of our lives and the hard to find moments of solitude,  
into our homes and situations along with friends and families,  
into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives,  
we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, **Messiah.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen**

### **Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon**

*Please sit or kneel*

We come seeking forgiveness for all we have failed to be and do  
as members of Christ's body.

*Silence*

In God there is forgiveness.

**Loving and all seeing God,**

**forgive us where we have failed to serve You;**

**and where our thoughts and actions have been contrary to Yours**

**we ask Your pardon.**

God forgives us; be at peace.

*Silence*

**We shall all be one in Christ, one in our life together.**

**Praise to God who has created us,**

**praise to God who has accepted us,**

**praise to God who sends us into the world.**

### **Sentence of the Day**

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His name shall be called  
Emmanuel: God with us.

*Matthew 1:23*

### **Collect of the Day**

**Living God, You called Your people out of Egypt**

**and gave them the covenant;**

**prepare our hearts to hear Your call,**

**so that we may receive with joy the gospel of Your Son**

**and be Your faithful people, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**1st Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16**

Read by Sharon Cordery

The Sign of Immanuel

<sup>10</sup> The LORD sent another message to Ahaz: "Ask the LORD your God to give you a sign. It can be from deep in the world of the dead or from high up in heaven." Ahaz answered, "I will not ask for a sign. I refuse to put the LORD to the test."

To that Isaiah replied, "Listen, now, descendants of King David. It's bad enough for you to wear out the patience of people - do you have to wear out God's patience too?

Well then, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name Him 'Immanuel.' By the time He is old enough to make His own decisions, people will be drinking milk and eating honey. <sup>16</sup> Even before that time comes, the lands of those two kings who terrify you will be deserted.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

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**Psalm: 80:1-7, 17-19**

80:1 Listen to us, O Shepherd of Israel; hear us, leader of Your flock.  
Seated on Your throne above the winged creatures,

**reveal Yourself to the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.  
Show us Your strength; come and save us!**

Bring us back, O God! Show us Your mercy, and we will be saved!

**How much longer, LORD God Almighty, will You be angry with Your  
people's prayers?**

You have given us sorrow to eat, a large cup of tears to drink.

**You let the surrounding nations fight over our land; our enemies  
insult us.**

Bring us back, Almighty God! Show us Your mercy, and we will be saved!

**<sup>17</sup> Preserve and protect the people You have chosen, the nation You  
made so strong.**

We will never turn away from You again; keep us alive, and we will praise You.

**<sup>19</sup> Bring us back, LORD God Almighty. Show us Your mercy, and we will be saved.**

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen***

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**2nd Reading: Romans 1: 1-7**

Read by Paul Jennings

1:1 From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus and an apostle chosen and called by God to preach His Good News.

The Good News was promised long ago by God through His prophets, as written in the Holy Scriptures. It is about His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: as to His humanity, He was born a descendant of David; as to His divine holiness, He was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death. Through Him God gave me the privilege of being an apostle for the sake of Christ, in order to lead people of all nations to believe and obey. This also includes you who are in Rome, whom God has called to belong to Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> And so I write to all of you in Rome whom God loves and has called to be His own people: May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

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**The Gradual Hymn: Tell My People**

***Refrain: Tell My people I love them;  
tell My people I care.  
When they feel far away from Me,  
tell My people I am there.***

Tell My people I came and died to give them liberty;  
as they abide in Me they will be really free!

Tell My people where-e'er they go to claim My risen power;  
My peace and joy and love is for them hour by hour.

Tell My people who grieve and mourn that I allowed the night of darkness to descend, but I am still the Light.

Tell My people to share their wealth and fight the sin of greed; care for the refugee; the hungry they're to feed.

Tell My people throughout the world to strive for peace today, show love for enemies, be servants of the Way.

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### **3rd Reading: Matthews 1:18-25**

Read by Diane Buchanan

### **Praise and Glory to God**

#### The Birth of Jesus Christ

<sup>18</sup> This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. She will have a son, and you will name Him Jesus - because He will save His people from their sins."

Now all this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, "A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and He will be called Immanuel" (which means, "God is with us").

So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to. <sup>25</sup> But he had no sexual relations with her before she gave birth to her son. And Joseph named Him Jesus.

This is the gospel of Christ

**Praise to Christ, the Word**

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**Sermon:**

Brought to us by The Rev'd David Cooper

**Intercessions:**

Given through Stephen Williams

**Peace:**

Please turn to page 485 in the Prayer book.

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**Offertory Hymn: O Love That Will Not Let Me Go**

O love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in Thee:  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
that in Thine ocean depths it's flow  
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to Thee:  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to Thee:  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly to Thee:  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.

*George Matheson 1842-1906 Grn fldr*

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**Communion**

*(prayer is available near the High altar during communion)*

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**Closing Hymn: Lord The Light Of Your Love**

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,  
set us free by the truth You now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain:

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth Your word, Lord,  
and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to our awesome presence,  
from the shadows into Your radiance;  
by Your Blood I may enter Your brightness,  
search me, try me, consume all my darkness -  
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,  
so our faces display Your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory;  
mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

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**Sending Forth:** Go now to love and serve the Lord; go now in peace.

**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

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## **Ministry Team, 22nd December, 2019**

**Liturgist:** Sue Lewis O'Halloran    **Server:** Leslie Wilkinson  
**Intercessor/Prayers:** Stephen Williams    **Organist:** Stuart du Preez  
**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev'd David Cooper  
**Welcome Team:** Vivienne Baggaley, Doug Norris  
**Morning Tea:** Lyn Wilson & Helpers

### **Parish Community News**

**Church Office will be closed from 20th December till 14th January.**

### **Prayer Needs**

*"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man." Proverbs 3:3*

Please continue to pray for the parish and all parishioners in the busy weeks to come, that people may know the joy of the coming Christ Saviour.

### **This week, 22nd–29th December, 2019**

**Tuesday 24th:** NO Bible Study till 4th February. Please consider joining us for this wonderful time of study and fellowship in 2020.

**Tuesday 24th 7pm:** Family Christmas Service.

**Tuesday 24th 10pm:** Coffee, Cakes and Carols in the church. Please join us.

**Tuesday 24th 11pm:** Midnight Service.

**Wednesday 25th 9:30: CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE.**

**Wednesday 25th December 12pm:** A place at the Table Christmas lunch, St James Church.

**Thursday 26th:** NO Chapel Services until 16th January which will be a Healing Service.

### **Sunday, 29th December, 9:30**

<b>First Reading:</b> Isaiah 63:7-9	Winnie Sheehan
<b>Psalms:</b> 148	
<b>2nd Reading:</b> Hebrews 2:10-18	George Haffenden
<b>3rd Reading:</b> Matthew 2:13-23	Leslie Wilkinson
<b>Preacher:</b>	TBA
<b>Presider:</b>	TBA
<b>Liturgist:</b>	Ruth Kowalewicz
<b>Server:</b>	Raewyn Grey
<b>Music Ministry/organist:</b>	Rev'd Brendon on guitar
<b>Intercessions:</b>	Stephen Williams
<b>Sanctuary Guild/Flowers:</b>	Anne McConnell, Jill Muir
<b>Morning Tea:</b>	Margaret MacKay and Helpers
<b>Welcome Team:</b>	Kate Jones, Christina Philip, Leslie Wilkinson

**Vicar:** The Rev'd Brendon Wilkinson    **Assistant Priest:** The Rev'd David Cooper

**Curate:** The Rev'd Liam Phillips    **Vicar's Warden:** Kate Jones

**Peoples Warden:** Lynne Mounsey    **Office Administrator:** Sharon Cordery

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