

**ST PETER**  
—  
DE BEAUVOIR TOWN

# A SERVICE OF THE WORD

29 November 2020

**Advent 1**



## Welcome to St Peter's...

St Peter's has been at the heart of De Beauvoir Town since 1841. The congregation today is a lively mix of people of all ages from all parts of the world.

An inclusive church in the liberal catholic tradition, faithful to the Anglican Communion, in the Diocese of London - whatever your experience of church, you are welcome here.

While our *Communion in Community* is restricted by the Covid-19 pandemic **Home Worship** is offered weekly online or by signing up for postal mailing.

**St Peter's Church** is open for **Private Prayer** on **Wednesdays 9-11am** and **Sundays 11am-12.45pm & 3-5pm**.

**St Peter's Community Partnership** has reopened the crypt for restricted community events and activities in line with government guidelines. Please contact the Parish Office with any enquiries.

For restricted funeral, wedding and baptism/christening enquiries, please contact the Vicar *-be aware when planning ceremonies that restrictions can suddenly change!*

With blessings

Julia Porter-Pryce

Vicar

## **Gathering while music is played**

But, you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light'. *1 Peter 2.9*

## **Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

## **Prayers of penitence**

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and  
will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**Lord our God,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

The Lord enrich us with his grace,

and nourish us with his blessing;  
the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil;  
the Lord accept our prayers,  
and absolve us from our offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

## **Collect**

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great  
humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **Lighting the Advent Candle**

People of God: awake!  
The day is coming soon  
when you shall see God face to face.  
Remember the ways and the works of God.  
God calls you out of darkness

to walk in the light of his coming.  
You are God's children.  
**Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ  
today and for ever.**  
**Amen.**

## **Readings**

**Isaiah 64.1-9** *read by Gerard Grech*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,

and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

### **1 Peter 2.1-9** *read by Bruce Oddoye*

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built[a] into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him[b] will not be put to shame.”  
To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”  
and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

*Hymn Lo! He comes with clouds descending*

Listen to Richard Jensen sing this old Wesleyan hymn  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=en0sv1jeDws>

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own.  
O come quickly, O come quickly;  
alleluia! come, Lord, come

**The Gospel**

## **Mark 13.24-37**

‘But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

*Sermon by Rt Rev'd Joanne Grenfell, Bishop of Stepney - see video online*



**Prayers for the church and for the world** *by Margaret Glover*

As we gather together in spirit and word this Advent Sunday, let us look forward to the joys that will come and listen for your call, O Lord, among friends and strangers in the here and now.

Creator Lord, we give you thanks for the abundance and diversity of this world. Help us to become better stewards of your gifts.

Lord, meet us in the silence  
**And hear our prayer**

Prince of Peace, we offer our prayers for the leaders of your church. Grant them the courage to be true shepherds of your flock.

Lord, meet us in the silence  
**And hear our prayer**

Son of Righteousness, we bring before you the leaders of the secular world. Open their hearts and minds to your guidance and wisdom.

Lord, meet us in the silence  
**And hear our prayer**

Loving Saviour, we ask that you to bless us with your courage and patience in these dark times.

Lord, meet us in the silence  
**And hear our prayer**

Healing Spirit, we offer our prayers for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. We give thanks for all those who offer their talents and skills to care for the sick and the dying.

Lord, meet us in the silence  
**And hear our prayer**

Gracious Lord, we bring before you our own needs and joys in humility and hope.

Lord, meet us in the silence  
**And hear our prayer**

Gentle Lord, we ask your blessing on those who live in isolation and fear. Give us the grace to share your light and hope with them.

Lord, meet us in the silence  
**And hear our prayer**

We offer our prayers for the recently departed and those who mourn their loss  
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord  
**And may light perpetual shine upon them**

We join our prayers of celebration and supplication as one and ask, Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

Instrumental *Prelude* from Bach's Cello Suite No. 2 in D minor and *Sarabande* from the Cello Suite No. 3 in C major played by Poppy Walshaw Cello

## **Thanksgiving**

Let us give thanks and praise for all God's gifts  
*Silence is kept*

For birth and life and strength of body,  
for safety and shelter and food,  
we give you thanks:  
**we praise your holy name.**  
For sight and hearing and the beauty of nature,  
for words and music and the power of thought,

we give you thanks:

**we praise your holy name.**

For work and leisure and the joy of achieving,  
for conscience and will and depth of feeling,

we give you thanks:

**we praise your holy name.**

For grace and truth in Jesus Christ,  
for the gifts of the Spirit and the hope of heaven,

we give you thanks:

**we praise your holy name.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## **The Peace**

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

## **Closing Prayers**

With love and compassion,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**  
With judgement and mercy,

**come, Lord Jesus.**  
In power and glory,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**  
In wisdom and truth,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,  
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

**Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power,  
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,  
joyful in hope and constant in love.

**Amen**

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

