

# St George's Church

Service of the Word | Advent to Epiphany



Welcome to St George's Church. If you are new or visiting, please introduce yourself to us after the service – we are delighted to have you with us.



For regular events and news from St George's Church, make sure you are on our mailing list. Previous Pastoral Letters are available on our church website.

God's family, reaching out and welcoming in, because  
JESUS IS GOOD NEWS

## **Before the Service begins**

As you wait for the service to begin, pray for a few people around you. Think of people who are unable to attend and bring them before the Lord in prayer.

Ask God to meet us and change us today. The following prayer is a good one to use:

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## **CALL: God gathers us**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

This is the day that the LORD has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*[Psalm 118:24]*

Jesus is the light of the world.

The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

**For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given.**

**And he is called:**

**Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

O Church, arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.

Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**Come, children of God,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

*[Isaiah 9:2,6; 60:1-3; 2:5]*

**Hymn**

## CONFESSION: God cleanses us

Follow God's example as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.

*[Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-10]*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance:  
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

*[1 Timothy 1:15]*

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.  
**If we walk in the light, as he is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**

*[1 John 1:5,7]*

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,  
and cleanse you from all your sins  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect (set prayer for today)

## CONSECRATION: God speaks and transforms us

*The first Bible reading ends with this:*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel reading*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*:  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## **Hymn**

*Remain standing for the Apostles' Creed.*

Let us affirm our faith in the living God:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended to heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## Prayers

*Some of the prayers may end in this way:*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**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 forever.  
Amen.**

## Hymn

*Please stand for the Commissioning:*

### **COMMISSION: God sends us**

Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.  
The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.  
So put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.  
Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and do not think about how to gratify your selfish desires.

*[Romans 13:12,14]*

**O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Final blessing

Wait eagerly for our Lord Jesus to be revealed.  
God will keep you firm to the end,  
so that you will be blameless on the day of Christ.  
God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship  
with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*[1 Corinthians 1:7-9]*

**Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth, peace,  
to those on whom his favour rests.**

... and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen!**

*You are most welcome to stay for refreshments.*

*If you would like someone to pray with you, please ask.*

*The grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.  
It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions,  
and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives  
in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope –  
the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour,  
Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to  
redeem us from all wickedness  
and to purify for himself a people  
that are his very own,  
eager to do what is good.*

*Titus 2:11-14*

## **Contact Us:**

Vicar: Rev Tim Vasby-Burnie

church@stgeorgesshrewsbury.church  
01743 235461

Administrator: Judith Heath-Clowes

judith.stgeorges@outlook.com  
07488 237884

Churchwarden: John Williams

07850 835997

Safeguarding: see our website or contact Gillian Scott (07980 505 808)

Connect with St George's online: **www.StGeorgesShrewsbury.church**

Find us on Facebook.com/**StGeorgesFrankwell**