

Outlook



Advent:

noun. season before Christmas; time of preparation; opportunity to remember that God became man, lived with us, and will return as High King of Heaven

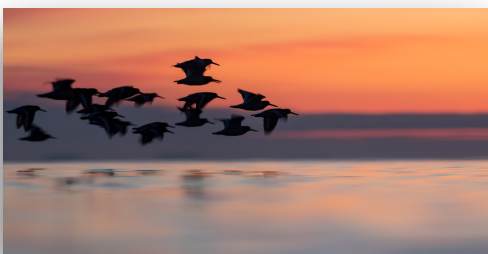
Good morning and welcome to another Sunday of worship. Today we begin the season of Advent, which of course isn't really about being ready for Christmas Day so much as it is about being prepared for the return of Jesus Christ. When God came to earth as a baby he was "gentle & lowly" (Matt 11:29), but when he returns, he will do so as conquering king (see Rev 22:12). Let's make good use then of this season - to prepare our hearts and whole lives to be ready to meet Jesus and to stand in his awesome presence.

Reservations for Christmas, Carols & Cake are Now Open



Please take a moment to [reserve your space](#) at this year's Christmas, Carols & Cake... and to invite your friends, family & neighbours to join you too. Reserve your space now by visiting our website or [clicking this link](#). The event itself is at 4:00pm on Sunday 21st December and is a terrific opportunity to invite friends to hear about Jesus!

A Collect for the 1st Week of Advent



Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Isaiah 2:1-5

1 This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days
the mountain of the Lord's temple
will be established

as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

3 Many peoples will come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain
of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.'
The law will go out from Zion,

the word of the Lord from
Jerusalem.

4 He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many
peoples.

They will beat their swords into
ploughshares

and their spears into pruning
hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against
nation,

nor will they train for war any more.

5 Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Matthew 24:36-44

[Jesus said,] 36 'But about that day or
hour no one knows, not even the
angels in heaven, nor the Son, but
only the Father. 37 As it was in the
days of Noah, so it will be at the
coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in
the days before the flood, people
were eating and drinking, marrying
and giving in marriage, up to the day
Noah entered the ark; 39 and they
knew nothing about what would
happen until the flood came and
took them all away. That is how it will
be at the coming of the Son of
Man. 40 Two men will be in the field;

one will be taken and the other left.

41 Two women will be grinding with
a hand mill; one will be taken and the
other left.

42 'Therefore keep watch, because
you do not know on what day your
Lord will come. 43 But understand
this: if the owner of the house had
known at what time of night the thief
was coming, he would have kept
watch and would not have let his
house be broken into. 44 So you also
must be ready, because the Son of
Man will come at an hour when you
do not expect him.

Jesus said:

*"So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour
when you do not expect him."* (Matt 24:44)

PCC Update

PCC

Our Church Council met last Monday and had a most encouraging time together. We noted our particular thanks to Sue F & Mike S who had prepared very nearly 1-inch-thick worth of necessary policies and procedures (Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Hiring Agreements, etc.), and got through a lot of much-needed parish administration. The PCC also chose to allocate £1000.00 from our World Mission fund to the vital work of **Barnabas Aid**, who support the suffering and persecuted Church across the world which leads very neatly onto...

Supporting the Persecuted Church



Bex Stupple - the regional representative of Barnabas Aid - will be giving a brief presentation at both of next week's services. Visit <https://www.barnabasaid.org/gb/> to watch their most recent video titled "**Faith in the Fire**" to catch a glimpse of the trials many of our Christian brothers and sisters are facing today.

Bring & Share Meal Next Sunday



Our monthly bring-and-share meal (which is rapidly becoming something of a banquet!) is taking place following the 11 o'clock 'come to the table' service next Sunday - 7th December. We hope you can join us. What might you bring to share?

Evening Prayer with Compline During Advent: Saturdays at 8pm in Advent



Join Mark in the Lady Chapel at All Saints' for a beautiful, quiet service full of rich liturgy, prayers and seasonal Bible readings every Saturday between now and Christmas Day.

When You Pray...



Please give thanks for:

- ▶ all that God has been doing in the lives of those who attended the recent Alpha Course;
- ▶ Geoff C's continuing recovery from his recent heart attack.

Please ask our Heavenly Father to:

- ▶ comfort & heal those who are very unwell at this time, especially Sandy E; Wendy I, and; Dave S.
- ▶ work powerfully through all our Advent/Christmas events - that many guests would join us and come to faith in Christ!

This Year's Christmas Tree



Dot has arranged for the tree to go up very soon. The tree will be decorated with gold & silver stars, on which you are invited to write the names of loved ones who are no longer with us. The stars will be near the main doors in All Saints'.

Christmas Invitations



Some online & printed invitations to our Christmas events are now available and we'd love your help in getting the word out.

- ▶ Who might **you** invite to **Christmas, Carols and Cake**? Or **No-Rehearsal Nativity**? Or **Christingle**? Or **Midnight Communion**?
- ▶ When you see one of our posts on Facebook, please will you **like** and **share** it? (The '**share**' means that lots more people are likely to see the post.)

Planning Ahead for Advent/Christmas: A Few Helpful Dates



- 6:30pm Tuesday 9th December: **Carols on the Green** with a brass band (!) outside St Francis'
- 11:00am Sunday 14th December: **No Rehearsal Nativity**
- 4:00pm Sunday 21st December: **Christmas, Carols & Cake**

Keep in Touch



Wardens: Keith 07905 249 860 & Dot 07446 072 097

Naomi: naomi@eastleighparish.com (for Children's Ministry)

Vicar: ian@eastleighparish.com 07809 668 118

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Following on from the Book of Acts...



All this autumn term we've been reading the book of Acts together. It's provided us with a dramatic description of all that Jesus **continued** to do and teach through the lives of the first members of the Church. How might you answer the following questions? Please feedback any responses you think may be helpful to Ian - especially answers to the 3rd question. **In light of all we've read in Acts:**

- ▶ Which story/incident did you find the most interesting and why?
- ▶ What's developed in your own walk with the Lord?
- ▶ What's one thing you think we ought to consider doing differently in the life of Eastleigh Parish that we might better represent Jesus?