

The sparrow responds, / Today, this Christmas Eve, / Is a night of good cheer!" /  
The greenfinch and the siskin / Say in singing, too, / "Oh, what joy I feel!"

The linnet sang, / "Oh, how lovely and beautiful / Is the child of Mary!" / The thrush answers:  
"Death is conquered, / My life now begins!"

#### Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand for the hymn (26). After the Blessing and Dismissal the clergy and servers process with the figure of the Christ Child around the church. During the procession we sing **O Come, all ye faithful (30)** - omitting verse 4. Before the final verse the figure of the Christ Child is placed in the Manger and scene is blessed; we then sing the last verse.

**The Clergy, Churchwardens and People of St George's, Paris send you, and all those you love, their prayers for a blessed and happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2020.**



**In Your Prayers please remember those on our sick-list:** Mary Berg, Jean-Paul Buffet, Paul Bultez, Angela Casone, Anne Cozic, Jeanine & Caroline Cullinan, Gregor Dallas, Mimi de Bentzmann -Fouilland, Isabelle Foulon, Ophélie Gourbault, Françoise Guibert, Irene Hicks, Prudence Kupka, Muriel Lamoureux, Kenneth Nyakana, Bernadette Pédeflous, Simone Rabaud, Maxie Stavritch, Pascale Stephany, Grace Valéry, HRH Prince Philip, Margaret Woods, Anitha Yannick and for Margo, Alex and Max, Sarah, Maroussia, Laurence, Marie-Thérèse, Susan, David, Paul, Saul.

**Those who have died:** David Coles priest, Alston Howard.

#### Notices :

**Welcome to the Eucharist tonight.** We are delighted to meet visitors, newcomers and our regular congregation. Mulled wine will be served in the Parish Hall after the service.

**Bienvenue à Saint-Georges.** Nous vous invitons à prendre un vin chaud après la messe dans la salle paroissiale, et si vous êtes visiteur nous serons heureux de faire votre connaissance.

**Giving at St George's:** now is the time to consider if you would like to top-up your giving to St George's for this tax year. If you pay tax in France and give by either standing order or cheque, you can have up to 66% of your giving to St George's deducted from your income tax liability. More details are available from Fr Mark or our Treasurer, Mike Orrin.

# St George's Paris

## Midnight Mass of Christmas: 24th December 2019

A warm welcome to St George's this evening. You will find the readings and hymn numbers on this newsletter, carols are in the green book and the service outline is in the cream booklets beginning on page 1—please note seasonal changes in this sheet. Tonight the choir sings the **Missa Pastorita** by Karl Kemper (1819-1871), the Gloria is from the **Rural Messe** by Czech composer Robert Führer (1807-1861), the motet during Communion will be **El Cant dels ocells** (Song of the birds) arr. by Pau Casals (1877-1973). The sortie is the Toccata by Théodore Dubois (1837-1924). We are delighted to welcome Simon Lawford as our organist for the Feast!

#### This week:

Tuesday 24th	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	1800 Confessions	2200 Midnight Mass of Christmas	
Wednesday 25th	<b>Christmas Day</b>	0830 Mass (BCP)	1030 Solemn Mass	1630 Messe Malgache
Thursday 26th	<i>St Stephen, martyr</i>	1800 Evensong	1830 Mass	
Friday 27th	<i>St John the Divine</i>	1200 Mass		
Saturday 28th	<i>The Holy Innocents</i>	1200 Mass		
Sunday 29th	<b>Christmas I</b>	0830 Mass (BCP)	1030 Solemn Mass	

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Please stand for the opening carol (29) when the bell rings.

#### Opening Prayer

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Please remain seated for the choir to sing the psalm appointed for this evening (Psalm 96).*

*O sing unto the Lord a new song \* sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name \* be telling of his salvation from day to day. Declare his honour unto the heathen \* and his wonders unto all people. For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised \* he is more to be feared than all gods. As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols \* but it is the Lord that made the heavens. Glory and worship are before him \* power and honour are in his sanctuary. Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people \* ascribe unto the Lord worship and power. Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name \* bring presents, and come into his courts. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness \* let the whole earth stand in awe of him. Tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King \* and that it is he who hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved; and how that he shall judge the people righteously. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad \* let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is. Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it \* then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord. For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth \* and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.*

### Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Please stand for the gradual hymn (35).*

### Holy Gospel: Matthew Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a

manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### Creed

*You will find the Creed to a setting by Merbecke in the hymnbook (542).*

### Intercessions:

Holy God: **Hear our prayer.**

### Offertory

*Please stand for the hymn (32) at the preparation of the altar; during this hymn a collection will be taken. During the Eucharistic Prayer we proclaim the mystery of faith by using the following:*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*At the end of the prayer we all respond Amen.*

### Breaking of the bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God is here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion if you do so in your own church. If you would prefer, please come forward and bow your head for a blessing.*

### Invitation to Communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

**Lord, give us this bread always.**

*The Choir will sing a traditional Catalan carol arranged by Pau Casals. The English translation follows:*

*In seeing emerge / The greatest light / During the most celebrated of nights, / The little birds sing. / They go to celebrate Him / With their delicate voices.*

*The imperial eagle / flies high in the sky, / singing melodically, / saying, "Jesus is born / To save us all from sin / And to give us joy."*