



GODALMING UNITED CHURCH
(Methodist & United Reformed)

SERVICE FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 2nd 2018 and notices for the coming week

I expect many of you are already getting into the spirit of Christmas. The Christmas lights are now switched on in the town, all the shop windows are tastefully decorated, and we're being bombarded on our television and mobile screens with endless ideas about presents we could buy for ourselves or someone else. And this is only the start of it! As the month wears on, it will get more intense.

The emphasis of our service this morning isn't about what presents we can get, but how we can help others who desperately need our support; and not just for Christmas, but the rest of the year as well. Our church is deeply involved with people and organisations within our town of Godalming, and much further afield than that. Our links with Africa and the Gambia, for instance, go back years. As do our links with the east end of London and the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless.

This Advent season is about giving people a reason to Hope, because Christ the Light of the world has shone into the darkness of despair, and we celebrate that truth in our service this morning. It's not a pious idea, but a life changing reality for those who are prepared to take the risk of Faith.

Rev Paul Hulme

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

ADVENT SUNDAY Come, Lord Jesus, may we be ready and watchful for your coming: as a human baby in a manger in a poor stable so long ago, truly one with us and as one who enters our hearts at our own invitation and walks with us day by day, Come, strengthen our love for you that we may reveal your light to the world around us. We pray for the community in which we live, especially for whoever this year is not looking forward to Christmas as a happy time.

9.00-10.15am eMerge (Fairtrade Sunday breakfast)

Today's stewards are

Vestry Steward Nancy Wilks

Duty Steward Keith Rowling

(stewards are the people to ask, if you need help before, during or after a service)

9.00am HOLY COMMUNION - led by Rev Paul Hulme
Pianist: Wendy Bicknell

HYMNS

(StF) 171 Hark the glad sound!

(StF) 169 Come, thou long expected Jesus

LESSON Luke Ch. 21 v.25-36 (p.1057) read by Gwen Wheatman

Our CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM requires hearing aids to be switched to the telephone or T programme. Recordings of our services are available through the church website, or a CD copy can be provided on request – please ask a Steward.

The Church operates a system of covenanted, planned giving (details of which may be obtained from Nicola Garriock).

There is a children's area available at the rear of the Church which parents and their young children may use during the service.

10.30am ADVENT SUNDAY – FAMILY and PARADE SERVICE

Led by Rev Paul Hulme

Music: StF CDs

Hosts: Sylvia Hunt and Christine Wells

Sound System: Richard August

Projection steward: Julie Rowling

Call to Worship

ALL STAND AS FLAGS ARE RECEIVED

HYMN (StF) 178 Long ago, prophets knew

WHAT DOES THE ADVENT CANDLE MEAN?

First Candle for Advent is lit

TOYS and GIFT BOXES are received

A Prayer and Words of HYMN 173 (StF)

Music Kids Rock around the shops
 This Christmas time

A crib for all to see

Song – Ross Calvert

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO AT CHRISTMAS?

HYMN (StF) 172 Hills of the north, rejoice

(Activity time with Nancy Wilks during the singing of this hymn)

THREE THINGS THAT I CAN DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO
SOMEONE'S LIFE AT CHRISTMAS TIME?

A Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Collection and dedication of the Offering *(congregation please stand)*

HYMN (StF) 183 Praise to the God who clears the way

Flags are returned during the singing of the hymn

Remain standing for

The Blessing

Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee or tea or a drink
of squash in the River Room after the service.

The December/January issue of SPAN is available this morning.

Pastoral Visitors – please collect the Christmas letters for your group.

If you are able to provide some greenery for decorating the church, please bring it to the church this week – preferably by Friday. If you cannot gain access to the church please leave it outside the Chancel Room at the end of the passageway next to the fire station.

Today 2.30pm Pantomime rehearsal

