

Palfrey Church

Notes on the services 3rd to 25th December 2023

Sunday 3rd December 2023

Liturgy

Apolytikia Resurrection Tone 1

**When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
And while soldiers were guarding your most pure body,
You rose, O Saviour, on the third day, giving life to the world.
Therefore the heavenly Powers cried out to you, Giver of Life:
Glory to your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to your kingdom!
Glory to your dispensation, only Lover of mankind!**

Church Tone 4

**Your nativity, O Mother of God,
Has made known joy to the whole inhabited world,
For from you there dawned the Sun of righteousness, Christ our God.
He abolished the curse and gave the blessing;
And by making death of no effect, he bestowed on us eternal life.**

Kontakion Christmas Eve Tone 3

**Today the Virgin
Comes to the cave to give birth ineffably
To the eternal Word.
Hearing this, dance, O inhabited world!
Glorify, with angels and with shepherds,
Him who willed to be made manifest,
A little child, God before the ages.**

Sunday 10th December 2023

Liturgy

Apolytikia Resurrection Tone 2

**When you went down to death, O immortal life,
Then you slew Hell with the lightning flash of your Godhead:
But when from the depths below the earth you raised the dead,
All the Powers in the heavens cried out:
Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to you!**

Church Tone 4

**Your nativity, O Mother of God,
Has made known joy to the whole inhabited world,
For from you there dawned the Sun of righteousness, Christ our God.
He abolished the curse and gave the blessing;
And by making death of no effect, he bestowed on us eternal life.**

Kontakion Christmas Eve Tone 3

**Today the Virgin
Comes to the cave to give birth ineffably
To the eternal Word.
Hearing this, dance, O inhabited world!
Glorify, with angels and with shepherds,
Him who willed to be made manifest,
A little child, God before the ages.**

Sunday 17th December 2023 Sunday of the Ancestors of God (the Forefathers)
(second before Christmas)

Liturgy

Apolytikia Resurrection Tone 3

**Let everything in Heaven rejoice, let everything on earth be glad,
For the Lord has shown strength with his arm,
By death he has trampled on death,
He has become the first-born from the dead,
From the belly of Hell he has delivered us,
And granted the world his great mercy.**

The Forefathers Tone 2

**By faith you justified the Forefathers,
Through them betrothing in advance the Church from the nations.
The saints will exult in glory, for from their seed there is a glorious fruit,
She who bore you without seed.
At their intercession, Christ God, save our souls.**

Church Tone 4

**Your nativity, O Mother of God,
Has made known joy to the whole inhabited world,
For from you there dawned the Sun of righteousness, Christ our God.
He abolished the curse and gave the blessing;
And by making death of no effect, he bestowed on us eternal life.**

Kontakion Christmas Eve Tone 3

**Today the Virgin
Comes to the cave to give birth ineffably
To the eternal Word.
Hearing this, dance, O inhabited world!
Glorify, with angels and with shepherds,
Him who willed to be made manifest,
A little child, God before the ages.**

Friday 22nd December 2023

ROYAL HOURS

In its full form, the Royal Hours are an extension of the daily monastic services of the Hours with seasonal hymns and readings, for serving formerly before the Byzantine emperor, on Christmas Eve, the Eve of Theophany and Great Friday. Today they are shortened.

Sunday 24th December 2023

Christmas Eve

Sunday before Christmas

Sunday of those Pleasing to God through the ages

Fasting with wine and oil

Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

Apolytikia **Resurrection** **Tone 4**

When the women Disciples of the Lord

Had learnt from the angel the joyful message of the Resurrection,

Casting away the ancestral condemnation,

Triumphantly they said to the Apostles:

Death has been despoiled, Christ God has been raised,

Granting the world his great mercy.

Christmas Eve **Tone 4 (Joseph was amazed)**

Mary once, with aged Joseph, Went to be enrolled in Bethlehem,

For they were of David's line; And she bore in her womb the fruit unsown.

The time of the birth was at hand, And there was no room at the inn:

But the cave proved a fair palace for the Queen.

Christ is born! that he may raise up again His image that of old had fallen.

The Fathers **Tone 2**

Great are the achievements of faith!

In the fountain of flame, as by the waters of rest,

The three holy youths rejoiced,

And the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep.

At their intercessions, Christ God, save our souls.

Church **Tone 4**

Your nativity, O Mother of God,

Has made known joy to the whole inhabited world,

For from you there dawned the Sun of righteousness, Christ our God.

He abolished the curse and gave the blessing;

And by making death of no effect, he bestowed on us eternal life.

Kontakion **Christmas Eve** **Tone 3**

Today the Virgin

Comes to the cave to give birth ineffably

To the eternal Word.

Hearing this, dance, O inhabited world!

Glorify, with angels and with shepherds,

Him who willed to be made manifest,

A little child, God before the ages.

CHRISTMAS

Feast continues until 31st December. Freedom from fasting until 4th January

Late Sunday to Monday 25th December

MATINS 9.30 pm

Highlights are:

Megalynarion

Russian Tone 6

We magnify you, O Christ the Giver of life,

Who was born in the flesh for us this day

From her that knew not wedlock

The All-pure Virgin Mary.

Katavasias 1 to 9

Tone 1

Christ is born, give ye glory

(as sung in Sunday Mattins since the feast of the Entry into the Temple)

Exapostilarion

Tone 3

Our Saviour, the Dayspring

From the east has visited us

From on high, and we who were

In darkness and shadow

Have found the truth: for the Lord

Is born of the Virgin.

LITURGY of St Basil

Special are:

Antiphons

Little Entrance

Readings with Prokeimena and Alleluia verses

Apolytikion

Tone 4

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,

Made the light of knowledge dawn on the world;

For through it those who adored the stars

Were taught by a star

To worship you, the Sun of righteousness,

And to know you, the Dawn from above.

Lord, glory to you.

Kontakion

Tone 3

**Today the Virgin gives birth
To him who is above all being,
And the earth offers a cave
To him whom no-one can approach.
Angels with shepherds give glory,
While Magi journey with a star;
For to us there has been born
A little Child, God before the ages.**

Instead of Holy God:

**All you who in Christ have been baptised
Have put on Christ: Alleluia!**

Instead of It is meet:

**Magnify, O my soul, her who is greater in honour and more glorious
than the hosts on high.
A strange and most wonderful mystery I see:
The cave is Heaven, the Virgin the throne of the cherubim,
The manger a room in which Christ, the God whom nothing can contain, is laid.
Him do we praise and magnify.**

Communion hymn:

The Lord has sent deliverance to his people (Psalm 110).