**Palfrey Church**

**Notes on the services 5th to 26th December 2021**

**Sunday 5th December** St Savvas the Devout

**Liturgy**

**Apolytikia Resurrection** Tone 7

**You abolished death by your Cross,**

**You opened Paradise to the thief,**

**You transformed the Myrrhbearers’ lament,**

**And ordered your Apostles to proclaim**

**That you had risen, O Christ God,**

**Granting the world your great mercy.**

 **The Devout Man** Tone 8 (with the streams of your tears)

**With the streams of your tears you cultivated the barren desert,**

**And with your deep groans you made your toils bring forth fruit a hundredfold,**

**And you have become a beacon, shining in all the world by your wonders.**

**Venerable FatherSavvas,**

**Intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.**

 **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 12th December** Sunday of the Ancestors of God (the Forefathers)

 (second before Christmas)

 St Spyridon the Wonderworker

**Liturgy**

**Apolytikia Resurrection** Tone 8

**You the Compassionate one came down from above,**

**You accepted burial for three days,**

**That you might free us from the passions.**

**Our life and resurrection, Lord, glory to you!**

 **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.**

**The Saint** Tone 1

**You appeared at the First Council as defender and worker of miracles,**

**O God-bearing father Spyridon.**

**You spoke to the maid within the tomb and turned the snake into gold.**

**When you sang the holy prayers, the angels celebrated with you, most holy one!**

**Glory to him who glorified you! Glory to him who crowned you!**

**Glory to him who through you has worked healing for all!**

 **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 19th December** Sunday before Christmas

 Sunday of those Pleasing to God through the ages

**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!**

  **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,**

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**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.**

**Saturday 25th December CHRISTMAS**

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

**MATINS** 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)**.**

**Sunday 26th December Sunday after Christmas**  Joseph the spouse of the Theotokos,

David the king and James the brother of the Lord

 **Synaxis of the Theotokos**

**LITURGY**

Antiphons of the Feast, Readings and prokeimena are those of the Sunday

**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 Heaven cried out:**

**Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to you!**

 **Christmas** 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!**

**The Sunday** Tone 2

**Joseph, proclaim to David the ancestor of Christ**

**The great wonders you have witnessed:**

**You have seen the Virgin with child, given praise with the shepherds**

**And adored with the Magi,**

**And the angel of the Lord has appeared to you.**

**Pray to Christ our God that he may save our souls.**

 **Church** Tone 4

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**He abolished the curse and gave the blessing;**

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**For to us there has been born A little Child, God before the ages.**

Instead of Holy God:**All you that in Christ have been baptised have put on Christ: Alleluia!**

It is meet and Communion hymn are those of the Feast.