**Palfrey Church**

**Notes on the services 1st December to 29th December 2024**

**Sunday 1st December 2024**  The prophet Nahum

**Liturgy**

**Apolytikia Resurrection** Tone 6

**Angelic Powers were at your grave,**

**And those who guarded it became as dead,**

**And Mary stood by the tomb,**

**Seeking your most pure body.**

**You despoiled Hell and emerged unscathed;**

**You met the Virgin and granted life.**

**Lord, risen from the dead, 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 8th December 2024**

**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.**

 **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 15th December 2024** Sunday of the Ancestors of God (the Forefathers)

 Hieromartyr Eleftherios

**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 saint** Tone 5

**You were attired in your sacred priestly robes,**

**You dripped streams of blood from your martyrdom.**

**Like this, you ran to Christ your Master,**

**O wise and blessed saint Eleftherios, destroyer of Satan.**

**Cease not to intercede for us**

**Who in faith honour your contest of martyrdom.**

 **The Forefathers** Tone 2

**You justified the Forefathers by faith,**

**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 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.**

**Sunday 22nd December 2024** Sunday before Christmas

 Sunday of Those Pleasing to God

**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 Forefeast** Tone 4

**Bethlehem, prepare: Eden is opened for all.**

**Make ready, Ephratha, because the tree of life**

**Has flowered in the cave from the Virgin.**

**For her womb has been revealed**

**As the spiritual Paradise in which is the plant of life:**

**Eating from it we shall live, we shall not die like Adam.**

**Christ is born! To raise up his image which 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.**

**Tuesday 24th December 2024 CHRISTMAS EVE**

**ROYAL HOURS**

In its full form, the daily monastic services of the Hours are extended in the Royal Hours, by seasonal hymns and Scripture readings, for serving in past times before the Byzantine emperor, on Christmas Eve, the Eve of Theophany and Great Friday. Today we have a shortened version.

**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!**

 It is meet

 Communion hymn

**Sunday 25th December 2024** Christmas Day

 **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.**

Tone 2

**I have begotten you from the womb before the morning star,**

**The Lord swore and will not repent,**

**You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizdek**

**Save us O Son of God,**

**Who were born of a virgin**

**We sing to you, alleluia**

**Sunday 29th December 2024** Sunday after Christmas **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 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 the wonders you have seen to David the ancestor of Christ:**

**You have seen the Virgin great with child,**

**You have given glory with the shepherds,**

**You have worshipped 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

**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** 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.**