

# CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme  
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[www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk](http://www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk)

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The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**DECEMBER  
2021**

Friends,

## Advent



Waiting is not popular in our culture, when so much can be obtained simply at the press of a button! Advent, when we wait for the coming of Christmas, is also an opportunity to learn what it means to be waiting for the promised return of Jesus. He says: *'It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back'* (Mark 13:34-35).

We live between Jesus' first and second comings and this parable reminds us of the need to watch and wait, as disciples living faithfully for Him. It reminds us of two kinds of waiting: *passive* and *active*. Imagine you're at the railway station, awaiting the arrival of a train. On the platform a man is asleep, as he thinks there is plenty of time before the train arrives. He is *passively waiting*. There is also a small boy on the platform who is excited about the train coming. He can't sit still and constantly looks down the track to see if the train is coming. He is *actively waiting*, for he expects the train to arrive at any moment.

Advent gives us a choice: *how will we wait for Jesus' coming?* Passive waiting doesn't require much attention on our part. We can live our Christian life pre-occupied with our own concerns, rather than looking to God. However, active waiting involves an eager expectation, as we await Jesus' return or simply look to him coming to us today. All we want is to be found faithful as His disciples. There is nothing more important than being ready to meet our Master!

**Canon Paul Hardingham**  
**Parish Pump**

## NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Our thoughts are with all our friends who are unable to worship with us at the present time for whatever reason or are going through difficult times and we pray that they receive strength to carry on from day to day.

We hope that as many people as possible will support the Coffee Morning with Christmas Stall on Sat 4 DEC between 10 am and 12 noon, together with Advent Buffet on Sun 12 DEC between 12.30 and 2.30pm after coffee at Church. Donations from both these events will go to our Church charities.

Thank you to all those who donated to The British Legion during Remembrance - £100 was raised and donated online, the easiest way. Many, many thanks.

Well done also for the 14 shoeboxes where we 'donated' £45 'postage' we filled in late OCT.

We are grateful not only to our in-house leaders for leading worship during November but also to Prof Christopher Whitehead from Bramhall for his service on Remembrance Sunday.

Thank you to all those who have recently contributed towards CHURC News.

Best wishes go to everyone who will be celebrating their birthday or anniversary during December.

**The News Team**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Christmas events -see Calendar on back page  
**Sun 9 JAN 2022 CHURCH AGM**

## FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

The Fellowship will be meeting again in the new year. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 5 JAN from 1.30pm until 3pm.

Mavis has kindly offered her bungalow for our meetings and all our friends at church will be welcomed every Wednesday (unless Soup and Sweet is taking place). So any Wednesdays you feel like a friendly chat or discussion, including tea/coffee and biscuits/cakes, please come along, everyone is welcome.

**Carole Davies**

## CHURCHES TOGETHER

Christmas and Easter CTCH  
arranges an outdoor service...



## CAROLS IN THE PARK

**in Oak Meadow**  
**11 am SAT 11 DEC**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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## HOPE

**These wonderful words in Isaiah, seem extremely appropriate at this time particularly with the constant anxiety of the Pandemic:**

*"The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in." (Isaiah 58: 11-12)*

**found by Mavis**

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## ADVENT BUFFET

(subject to Covid regulations)

**SUN 12 DEC**  
**at Mavis Davies' home**

**12.30 ~ 2.30 PM**  
**(after coffee at Church)**

**DONATIONS TO THE  
CHURCH CHARITIES**

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## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Heather, David and Louise wish all their friends at Cheadle Hulme URC a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Vera Lees wishes all her friends at Swann Lane Church a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. With many thanks for the love and support shown to me during the past six months.

Best wishes to all our friends at Swann Lane for Christmas and the New Year from John and June Mitchell.

Christmas Greetings to all at Swann Lane. We have many happy memories of Cheadle Hulme. Norman and Mildred.



Christmas wishes and all the best for 2022 to all our friends at Swann Lane with grateful thanks for all your support for Christian Aid and Traidcraft throughout the year. Morag and Sandy

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to everyone at Cheadle Hulme. Alison Smith

Mo Morton wishes everyone a happy, peaceful and inclusive Christmas and with every good wish for 2022.

Bernie and Alison send best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone associated with Swann Lane

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### COFFEE MORNING and CHRISTMAS BRING & BUY STALL

**Sat 4 DEC**

**10 am ~ 12 noon**

Gifts are needed for the stall which will include a variety of goods – crafts, books, cards



...in aid of our Church charities

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## NEW MINISTER FOR DIGITAL WORSHIP

The Rev Andy Braunston, Minister of Barrhead, Priesthill, Shawlands and Stewarton United Reformed Churches (URC) in the National Synod of Scotland's Southside Cluster, has been appointed as the new Minister for Digital Worship.

The new role was introduced at General Assembly in July by the Rev Dr John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC, to make the Daily Devotions and Daily Devotions Sunday service an integral part of the life and witness of the denomination.

The Devotions began as a personal initiative of Mr Braunston and now reach about 4,000 people daily. More than 1,500 people access the Daily Devotions Sunday Service each week, a further initiative that started as a result of people being unable to attend church during the pandemic.

As part of his role, Mr Braunston will develop a range of digital worship ministries for the URC and continue and extend the Daily Devotions and Daily Devotions Sunday Service formats. He'll also explore how new forms of discipleship development, for individuals and congregations, might be fostered to supplement the Daily Devotions initiative, and support the work of the Worship Reference Group to ensure that URC makes easily available a wide range of quality worship resources for the work of the whole Church.

Andy's role is full-time and sits in the URC's Discipleship team. It will be home-based with support from the URC's Communications Team.

Speaking about the appointment, the Rev Adrian Bulley, Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship) said: "I'm thrilled by Andy's appointment to this post. By dedicating time and resources to this pioneering ministry, the URC is recognising the importance of Daily Devotions and the Daily Devotions Sunday Service in supporting and developing discipleship and enabling faith development. The post will help those initiatives to develop and expand in new ways. Andy will bring his energy, enthusiasm and entrepreneurial flair to the role and become a valuable addition to the discipleship team."

Andy added: "I am honoured to be appointed to this role and am looking forward to developing the Devotions and the Sunday services to make them ever more useful tools of discipleship."

**URC website**

## **'COP26 FAILED' SAY CHURCH LEADERS**

**The Rev Clare Downing, Moderator of the General Assembly of the URC, joins with leaders from the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Methodist Church in Great Britain in responding to the conclusion of the COP26 summit held in Glasgow.**

Significant new statements have been made at the summit in Glasgow. Most government delegations accept that the sense of urgency is greater than it was six years ago at Paris, but ultimately, the summit has not delivered. All governments must agree on the necessary actions to avoid 1.5 degrees of warming. The failure of all parties at COP26 to unequivocally support this higher ambition with funding and emission reductions is an injustice towards those whose livelihoods have already been devastated by climate change.

We are deeply disappointed that the language on phasing out coal was weakened at the last moment, although the summit has called for the phasing out of 'inefficient' subsidies for fossil fuels. COP26 has also initiated a process to create a fund to help communities recover from loss and damage resulting from severe climatic events. These developments are crucial and welcome, but we cannot wait for pledges to be reviewed and turned into action every five years. Action must be taken now. The pace and intensity of action must keep up with the science and with the realities experienced by an increasing number of people whose flourishing – now and in the future – depends on the actions that we all take today.

Many of our church partners in developing countries are already experiencing the dire impact of changing weather patterns on livelihoods and food security. As he arrived as a delegate at COP26, the Revd James Bhagwan, General Secretary of the Pacific Council of Churches, said that for many in the Pacific Islands Psalm 137 with its reference to being 'by the rivers of Babylon ...' has particular resonance. As these communities face exile they experience a sense of loss of identity, sovereignty, and future. At COP26, our Churches have listened to and sought to amplify the voices of those in the global south who are critically affected by loss through changing climates. Our Churches acknowledge that while we live in

an age of individuality and immediacy, this is a journey not of individuals but of a community: the people of God and the people of the earth. Whilst individual actions are important, this is a journey that requires us to work together to build a safe and healthy future for all. The involvement of so many sectors of society in COP26 was an inspiration. Sadly, the response of governments is not yet adequate, and we call for further actions that respond meaningfully to the magnitude of the emergency that we face.

**Rev Clare Downing, Moderator of  
General Assembly of the URC  
Rev Sonia Hicks, President of the  
Methodist Church in Britain  
Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the  
Methodist Church in Britain  
Rev Lynne Green, General Secretary,  
Baptist Union of Great Britain  
Rev Dr Dave Gregory, Convener of the  
Baptist Union Environmental Network**

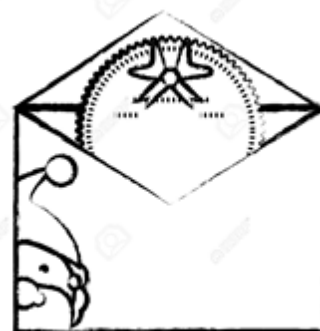
**URC website**

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## **CHRISTMAS INTERNAL MAIL**

The 'post box' for those Christmas cards you want to send to friends at Church will be in the church foyer. These will be sorted WEEKLY, but please allow time to distribute the cards.

There will be a box at the side for small donations to take account of the postage saved! These, along with those contributions for published Christmas Greetings in the magazine, will go to the Church charities.



**Thank you**

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## **STAR**

At a rehearsal for a Sunday school Christmas tableau, the teacher carefully lined up four little 'cherubs'. Each carried a huge cut-out letter. As they stood side by side, the letters would spell out "STAR". A slight mix-up occurred, and those present in the church auditorium nearly fell out of their pews as the four little performers took their places – in reverse.

**Parish Pump**



## MY DAD

Definitions of a Dad...

A mender of toys, a leader of Boys;  
A changer of fuses, a healer of bruises;  
A mover of couches, a healer of ouches;  
A hanger of screens, a counsellor of teens;  
A pounder of nails, a teller of tales;  
A dryer of dishes, a fulfiller of wishes.  
Bless him, O Lord; my Dad

Jo Ann Heid



## HUMOUR FOR COVID

Studies show cows make more milk if the farmer talks to them.  
A case of in one ear and out the udder!

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What's an **Oxymoron**? ...found missing, open secret, deafening silence, small crowd, act naturally, fully empty, pretty ugly, original copy, only choice, liquid gas, remote supervision, **social distancing**(!).

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THESAURUS has died. ...at peace, breathed his last, dead, deceased, defunct, departed, expired, extinct, gone, kicked the bucket, left us, lifeless, passed away, perished, popped his clogs, succumbed, snuffed it.

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The most gullible chemical element is **easily lead**.

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After a sugar lorry collided with a dairy van carrying milk and eggs, both drivers were in custardy!

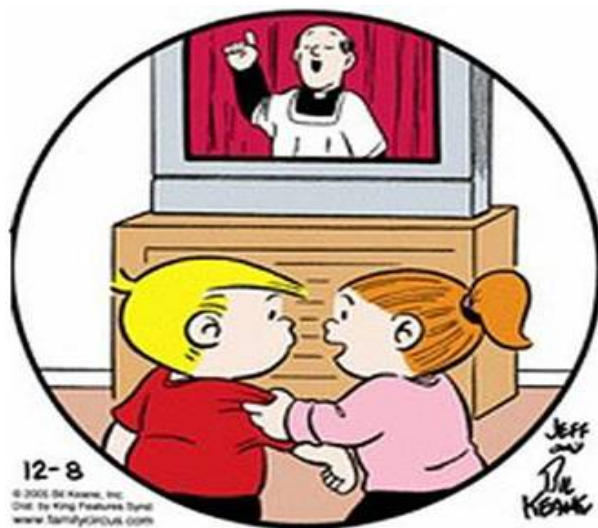
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"I've lost the dictionary."

"Can you look upstairs?"

"I can't look up anything!"

=====



12-8  
© 2005 St. Kevins, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com  
"Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."

=====

Halloween is when Demons and Ghouls hang out together.... ...because Demons are a Ghoul's best friend.

=====

The policeman asked if I stole these dodgems, big wheel, helter-skelter, carousels and side stalls?  
I said "It's a **fair** cop."

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## BELLS NEVER SOUND ANY SWEETER

*Bells never sound any sweeter  
Than when at Christmas they ring;  
Angels on wings never fleeter –  
Message of gladness they bring!  
As they once sang on that first Christmas  
night*

*Bells sing of God's Holy birth  
Ringing throughout the whole earth!*

*O, when those sweet bells are ringing  
Even in Heaven they're heard;  
Angels soon join with their singing  
Bringing us God's Holy Word.  
Sing of the father, the mother, the child  
Bells sing of God's Holy birth  
Ringing throughout the whole earth!*

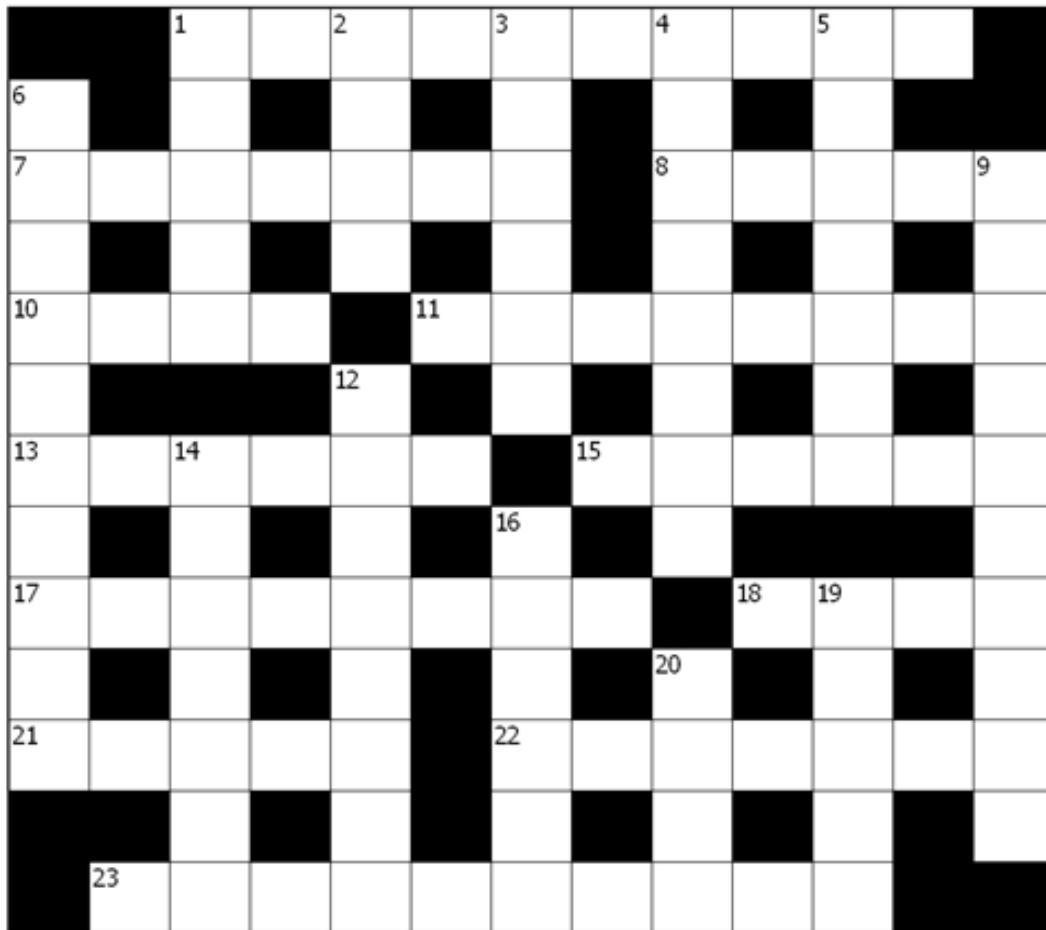
*Ring with those beautiful tones  
Across the far ocean wide  
Joy to all folk in their homes  
This blessed Christmastide!  
All sing with joy the wonderful song –  
Bells sing of God's Holy birth  
Ringing throughout the whole earth!*

**By Nigel Beeton**

German carol,

*Susse die Glocken nie klingen*

Collected by Dave Yates



## CHURC CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)  
 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14-15) (7)  
 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)  
 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)  
 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)  
 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)  
 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith \_\_\_\_ (6)  
 17 Stormy (8)  
 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)  
 21 Arson (anag.) (5)  
 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)  
 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

### Down

- 1 '\_\_\_\_ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)  
 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as \_\_\_\_ as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)  
 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Pharaoh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)  
 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19-20) (8)  
 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)  
 6 'Offer your bodies as living \_\_\_\_\_, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)  
 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)  
 12 One who accepts government by God (8)  
 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)  
 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)  
 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)  
 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will \_\_\_\_ his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)

## SERVICES

Elders' wish to keep everyone safe, so please wear masks (especially for singing) and understand our plans may change with little notice.

We may sometimes have a speaker and sometimes a simple in-house led service. Video conferencing continues and Leaders or readers may Zoom in or speak in church, from one of the lecterns.

**Duties** are performed by a small team on a rota. Please check the board for swops.

Date	5 DEC	12 DEC	13 DEC	16 DEC
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Bereavement Service	Candlelight Service
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	7.30 pm	8.00 pm
Leaders	Linda Rayner	Sandy & Morag Smith	Margaret Dexter-Brown	In House
Reader	M Hardie	G Elsdon	J Hodson	various
Elder Duty	S Smith	P Oliver	B Stevens	A Stevens
Flowers	D Green	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas
Coffee	H Elsdon	M Morton	-	
Notes	CHRISTINGLE and TOY SERVICE		7.30 pm	8.00 pm

Date	19 DEC	24 DEC	25 DEC	26 DEC
Service	Morning Worship	WATCHNIGHT SERVICE	CHRISTMAS DAY	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	11.30 pm	From 9am	10.30 am
Leaders	In House	Led by Linda Rayner at <b>Bramhall URC</b>	Church will be <b>open</b> for a Service from the <b>Partnership (Youtube recording)</b>	Bernie Stevens
Reader	various			H Elsdon
Elder Duty	D Phillips			S Smith
Flowers	Christmas			Christmas
Coffee	B Platt			S & M Smith
Notes	LESSONS & CAROLS	CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30 pm		HOLY COMMUNION

## LECTIONARY for DECEMBER

5 DEC: Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 1.68-79 (Benedictus); Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6

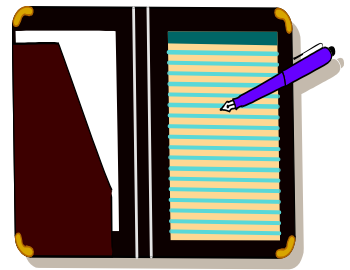
12 DEC: Zephaniah 3.14-20; Isaiah 12.2-6 (Canticle); Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

19 DEC: Micah 5.2-5a; Luke 1.46b-55 (Magnificat); Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45(46-55)

25 DEC: Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14,(15-20)

26 DEC: 1 Samuel 2.18-20,26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52

## CALENDAR (programme of services inside)



.....to the best of the editor's knowledge, unless you know better...  
As groups return in the new year, please double check timings.

### DECEMBER

Wed 01

Thu 02 2.30 pm Elders' Meeting ~ Church

Fri 03 3.00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sat 04 10am~12 noon Coffee Morning with Christmas Bring & Buy stall

Mon 06

Tues 07

Wed 08

Thu 09

Fri 10 3.00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sat 11 11 am CTCH Carols in the Park ~ Oak Meadow

Sun 12 12.30 ~ 2.30 pm Advent Buffet at Mavis Davies' - in aid of Church charities

Mon 13 7.30 pm Bereavement Service

Tues 14

Wed 15 2.30 pm Carols with the Choir ~ Mavis Davies'

Thu 16 8 pm Fellowship Circle Candlelight Service ~Church

Fri 17 3.00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Mon 20

Tues 21

Wed 22

Thu 23

Fri 24

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

**and Peaceful New Year**



Mon 27 bank holiday

Tues 28 bank holiday

Wed 29

Thu 30

Fri 31

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

**DOWN:** 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

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