



www.holytrinitystirling.org

# Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Scottish Charity: SC016471

**Open**  
**inclusive**  
**inspiring**  
**friendly**  
**deep**

Rector: Revd Christoph Wutscher · Tel: 01786 359821 · rector@holytrinitystirling.org

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**6.30 p.m. Epiphany Carol Service**

*A warm welcome to you this evening, as the congregations of St Mary's Dunblane, St Saviour's Bridge of Allan and Holy Trinity Stirling come together in worship to make a visit to the manger by way of readings from both the Old and New Testaments, prayer and song. As we ask for God's guidance in our lives, may we be led to more deeply into Christ's presence and learn to offer our gifts to God, the world and one another.*

**Organ Prelude** Johannes Brahms: Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen op.122,8

## Opening Hymn

1 Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
and manifest thy virgin-birth:  
let every age adoring fall;  
such birth befits the God of all.

2 Begotten of no human will,  
but of the Spirit, thou art still  
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,  
the Saviour, now to us displayed.

3 From God the Father he proceeds,  
to God the Father back he speeds,  
runs out his course to death and hell,  
returns on God's high throne to dwell.

4 O equal to thy Father, thou!  
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,  
the weakness of our mortal state  
with deathless might invigorate.

5 Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
and darkness glow with new-born light,  
no more shall night extinguish day,  
where love's bright beams their power display.

6 O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee  
eternal praise and glory be,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

St Ambrose (c.340-397)  
tr. J.M. Neale et al.

## Opening Prayer

O God, whose blessed Son, Jesus Christ, was made human, that we might become your children: grant that we, being made partakers of his divine nature, may be shaped in his likeness; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Do not bring us to the time of trial  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Isaiah 7.10-17 (The Sign of Immanuel)

#### Hymn

1 The root of Jesse now has flowered,  
for Sarah's daughter bears a son;  
behold the Mother of our God  
draws to her breast the Holy One.

2 The co-eternal Word of God  
is cradled now in slumber deep:  
who holds the planets to their course  
now nestles in her arms, asleep.

3 The law which girds the universe,  
God's Torah teaching Wisdom's ways,  
in Mary, both have been enfleshed –  
a source of scandal and God's praise.

4 This Jewish daughter's bold consent,  
her wonderment, her 'Let it be!'  
has touched the very depths of God  
and ever changed the way we see.

Aelred-Seton Shanley alt.  
© Archdiocese of Chicago

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Matthew 1.18-25 (The Birth of Jesus)

#### Hymn

1 A great and mighty wonder,  
a full and holy cure!  
the Virgin bears the Infant  
with virgin-honour pure:

*Repeat the hymn again:  
'To God on high be glory,  
and peace on earth to men.'*

2 The Word becomes incarnate,  
and yet remains on high;  
and cherubim sing anthems  
to shepherds from the sky:

3 While thus they sing your Monarch,  
those bright angelic bands,  
rejoice, ye vales and mountains,  
ye oceans, clap your hands:

4 Since all he comes to ransom,  
by all be he adored,  
the Infant born in Bethl'em,  
the Saviour and the Lord:

*Repeat the hymn again:  
'To God on high be glory,  
and peace on earth to men.'*

St Germanus (c.639-c.734)  
tr. J.M. Neale

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Micah 5.2-5 (The Ruler from Bethlehem)

#### Hymn

1 Earth has many a noble city;  
Bethl'em, thou dost all excel:  
out of thee the Lord from heaven  
came to rule his Israel.

2 Fairer than the sun at morning  
was the star that told his birth,  
to the world its God announcing  
seen in fleshly form on earth.

3 Eastern sages at his cradle  
make oblations rich and rare;

see them give in deep devotion,  
gold and frankincense and myrrh.

4 Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:  
incense doth their God disclose,  
gold the King of kings proclaimeth,  
myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.

5 Jesu, whom the Gentiles worshipped  
at thy glad Epiphany,  
unto thee with God the Father  
and the Spirit glory be.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Reading Matthew 2.1-6 (The Wise Men arrive)

**Organ Reflection** Johann Pachelbel: Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

### 5<sup>th</sup> Reading Isaiah 60.1-7 (The Light has Come)

#### Hymn

1 Arise, shine out, your light has come,  
unfolding City of our dreams.  
On distant hills a glory gleams:  
the new creation has begun.

2 Above earth's valleys, thick with night,  
high on your walls the dawn appears,  
and history shall dry its tears,  
as nations stream towards your light.

3 From walls surpassing time and space,  
unnumbered gates, like open hands,  
shall gather gifts from all the lands,  
and welcome all the human race.

4 The sounds of violence shall cease  
as dwellings of salvation rise  
to sparkle in eternal skies  
from avenues of praise and peace.

5 The dancing air shall glow with light  
and sun and moon give up their place  
when Love shines out of every face:  
our Good, our Glory, our Delight.

Brian Wren, based on Isaiah 60  
© Stainer & Bell Ltd.  
CCLI Licence # 237731

### 6<sup>th</sup> Reading Matthew.2-7 (The Wise Men offer Gifts)

#### Hymn

1 As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

4 Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way,  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

**7<sup>th</sup> Reading** Romans 12.1-2, 6-13

### Hymn

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the King of Angels:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

2 God of God,  
Light of Light,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created:

5 In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

William Chatterton Dix

3 See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too with thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:

4 Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
we to the Christ child  
bring our heart's oblations:

5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born for our salvation,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:

Latin 18<sup>th</sup> century  
Tr. Frederick Oakley et al.

### The Blessing

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord; and the blessing ...

**Organ Postlude** Johann Sebastian Bach: Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich BWV 605