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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Scottish Charity: SC016471

Open
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deep

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

Sunday 18th December 2022 — 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
ADVENT 4

Celebrant: The Rt Revd Ian Paton, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane
Readings: Cathy Johnston
Sidespeople: Helen Kemp & Fiona Macleod

PREPARATION

Organ Prelude Cecilia McDowell: O Emmanuel (O Antiphon Sequence)

Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle (*please stand*)
As the fourth candle is lit, we sing all verses of our Advent hymn.

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1 Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray;
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness on that Day.

2 Prophet voices loudly crying,
making pathways clear;
glimpsing glory, self-denying,
calling all to hear.
Through their message - challenged, shaken –
hearts awaken: God is near!

3 John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready for the Lord.'

4 Mary's gift, beyond all telling,
we recall today:
Son of God within her dwelling,
born to show the way.
Who could guess the final story?
– cross and glory; Easter Day!

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Collect for Purity
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this:
"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind and with all your strength."
The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself."
There is no other commandment greater than these.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie Kilcreggan Mass (*see separate music sheet*) (*please stand*)

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Collect

Stir up your power, Lord, and come: and strengthen us by the might of your love; that, although we are hindered by our sins, your abundant grace and mercy may quickly come and save us; for you live and reign with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 7.10-16 (*please sit*)

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, [11] Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. [12] But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. [13] Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? [14] Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. [15] He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. [16] For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Gradual Hymn

1 With Mary let my soul rejoice,
and praise God's holy name –
his saving love from first to last,
from age to age, the same!

2 How strong his arm, how great his power!
The proud he will disown;
the meek and humble he exalts
to share his glorious throne.

3 The rich our God will send away
and feed the hungry poor;
the arms of love remain outstretched
at mercy's open door.

4 So shall God's promise be fulfilled,
to Israel firmly made:
a child is born, a Son is given
whose crown will never fade.

5 All glory to the Father, Son
and Spirit now proclaim;
with Mary let the world rejoice
and praise God's holy name!

David Mowbray based on the Magnificat
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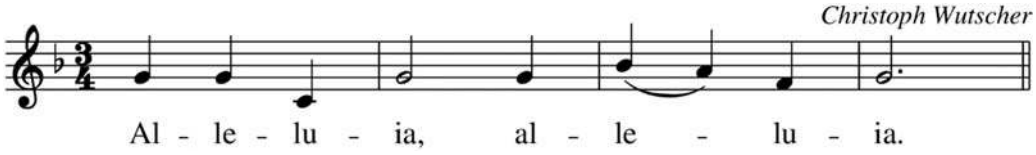
Second Reading: Romans 1.1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, [2] which he promised
beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, [3] the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended
from David according to the flesh [4] and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of
holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, [5] through whom we have received grace and
apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, [6] including
yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, [7] To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation
(*please stand*)



Gospel: Matthew 1.18-25 (*please stand*) *When it is announced:* Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to
Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. [19] Her husband
Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her
quietly. [20] But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the
Holy Spirit. [21] She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their
sins.' [22] All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: [23] 'Look, the virgin
shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' [24] When
Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, [25] but had
no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Give thanks to the Lord for this glorious Gospel. Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon: The Bishop

Nicene Creed (*please stand*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and was made human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Intercessions led by Cathy Johnston (*please sit or kneel*)

Confession and Absolution

God is love and we are God's children, there is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence

God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry.
Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil.
For the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace (*please stand*) We meet in Christ's name. Let us share his peace.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offertory Hymn (*please stand*)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depth of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:

3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

4 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

5 O come, o come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's hight,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Latin Advent Antiphons
Tr. J M. Neale

Offertory Prayer (*please stand*)

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made: it will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands; it will become the cup of our salvation. **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more. In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined, sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come. Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your threefold likeness look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed. As children of your redeeming purpose who await with eager longing the fulfilment of all things in the coming of your Son, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (*please sit*)

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus you showed us yourself. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, he opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven. Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you." After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by the Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised
into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The living bread is broken for the life of the world. Lord, unite us in this sign.

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.

Agnus Dei *see separate music sheet*

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

Communion *is administered in both kinds at the bottom of the chancel steps. Hand sanitiser is provided. It is perfectly acceptable to only receive the bread, should you so wish. Please do not intinct (dip the bread into the wine) as this is not considered to be a hygienic practice.*

During Communion Johann Pachelbel: Fugue on the Magnificat

Communion Hymn

1 No wind at the window, no knock on the door;
no light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:
just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.

2 'Oh, Mary, oh, Mary, don't hide from my face.
Be glad that you're favoured and filled with God's grace.
The time for redeeming the world has begun;
and you are requested to mother God's son.'

3 'This child must be born that the kingdom might come:
salvation for many, destruction for some;
both end and beginning, both message and sign;
both victor and victim, both yours and divine.'

4 No payment was promised, no promises made;
no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess,
replied with conviction, 'Tell God, I say yes.'

John L. Bell and Graham Maule
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THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Post Communion Prayer

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Hymn (*please stand*)

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley

Commissioning of a Lay Worship Leader

The Blessing & Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Organ Postlude Helmut Walcha: Zu Bethlehem geboren

NOTICES

Monday 19th December
10 – 11.30 a.m. **HT Tots Café**

Wednesday 21st December
10.30 a.m. **Advent Study Group** (Session 3)

Thursday 22nd December
11 a.m. **Holy Communion**
8 p.m. **Advent Study Group** (Session 3)

Saturday 24th December
CHRISTMAS EVE
4 p.m. **Crib Service** — **Readings**
11 p.m. **Midnight Mass** — Isaiah 52.7-10; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14

Sunday 25th December — **Readings**
CHRISTMAS DAY — Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11-14;
10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist** — Luke 2.1-20

Start Up Stirling Christmas Appeal

In the run up to Christmas we are all particularly aware of the need to provide for those less fortunate. Start Up Stirling suggests we take part in a **Reverse Advent Calendar**, donating something each day. The more we can collect the more people we can help. Leave your donations in the church and Cate Watson will take them up to the warehouse. HT will also give **half of the cash donations for Tea & Coffee** in the church hall to Start Up, so consider paying for an extra cuppa! You can find out more by visiting the Start Up Stirling website: Supporting Our Community - Start Up Stirling (en-GB)