www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Scottish Charity: SC016471

Open
inclusive
inspiring
friendly
deep

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

Sunday 15th December 2024 — 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
ADVENT 3

Celebrant: The Rector

Readings: Nikki Jorgensen

Sidespeople: Libby Coats and Sandy Goss

OFFERINGS AT HOLY TRINITY

No Collection is taken during services; offerings are welcome before or after the service:

- *cash in baskets at the back of the church, with Gift Aid donation envelopes*
- *a debit/credit card reader is also available.*

Contributions support Holy Trinity's Ministry and Running Costs or any Special Collections announced.

PREPARATION

Organ Prelude Flor Peeters: O come, O come, Emmanuel op.100

Opening Hymn

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.'

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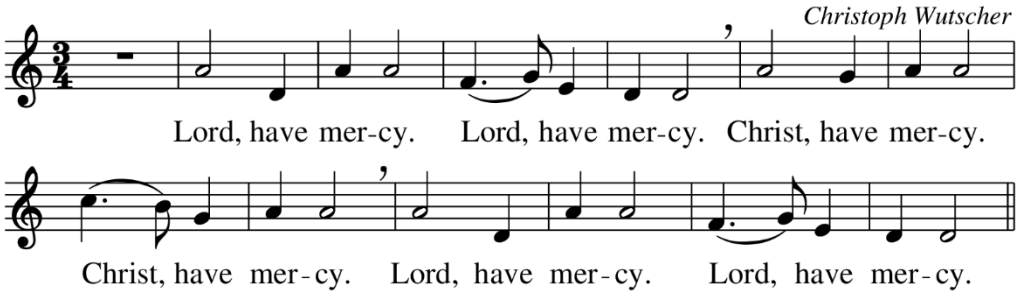
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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.

Kyrie

Collect

Stir up our prayers, Lord, and hear us: that they who are sorrowful and suffering may rejoice at the Advent of your only-begotten Son; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-20

sit

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
15 The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel,
the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not
fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives
victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with
loud singing 18 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for
it. 19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will
change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time
when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I
restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Gradual Hymn

1 Come now, O Prince of peace,
make us one body;
come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile your people.

2 Come now, O God of love,
make us one body;
come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile your people.

3 Come now and set us free,
O God, our Saviour;
come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile all nations.

4 Come, Hope of unity,
make us one body;
Come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile all nations.

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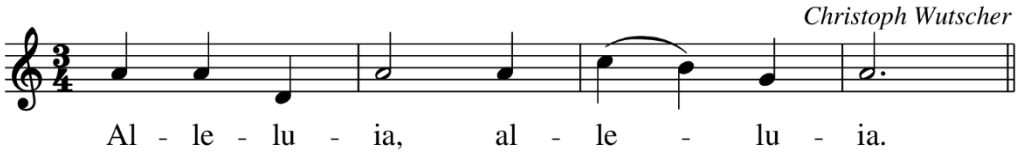
tr. Marion Pope

Second Reading: Philippians 4.4-7

4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

stand



Gospel: Luke 3.7-18 *When it is announced:* Glory to Christ our Saviour.

7John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' 10And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' 11In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' 12Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' 13He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' 14Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' 15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' 18So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Sermon: The Revd Ian Boa

sit

Nicene Creed

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 *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 We meet in Christ's name. Let us share his peace. *stand*

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offertory Hymn

1 Into the darkness of this world,
into the shadows of the night,
into this loveless place you came,
lightened our burden, eased our pain,
and made these hearts your home.
Into the darkness once again,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with your love to make us whole,
come with your light to lead us on,
driving the darkness far from our souls,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

2 Into the longing of our souls,
into these heavy hearts of stone,
shine on us now your piercing light,
order our lives and souls aright,
by grace and love unknown,
until in you our hearts unite,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

3 O Holy Child, Emmanuel,
Hope of the ages, God with us,
visit again this broken place,
till all the earth declare your praise
and your great mercies own.
Now let your love be born in us
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come in your glory, take your place,
Jesus the Name above all names,
we long to see you face to face,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

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Offertory Prayer

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. Amen.

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, O blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

James Macmillan:
Mass of St Anne

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.

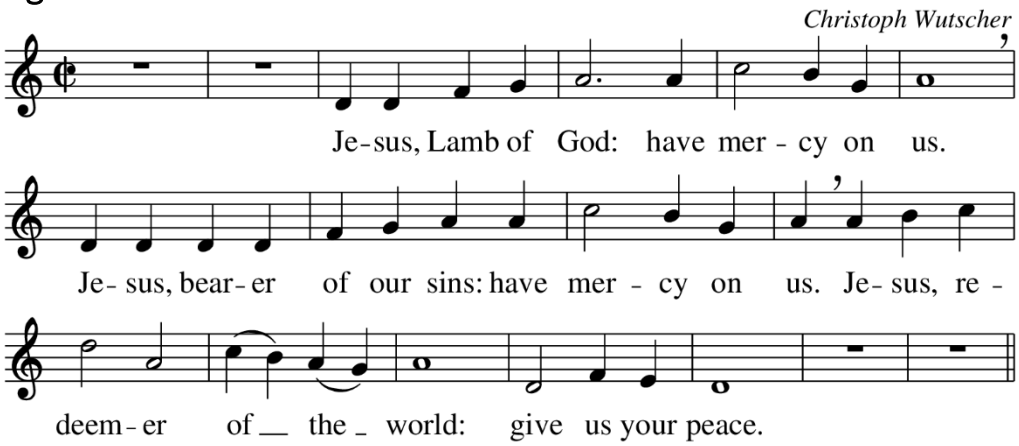
The Breaking of the Bread

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



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. The communicant may respond with ***Amen*** *when receiving the bread and wine.*

Communion Psalm

Refrain: *Come to me, and I will give you rest.*

From the depths I call to you. Listen, Lord, and hear my pleading.

Love and mercy flow from you, Lord of life and kind Redeemer.

In the dark I hope for you, you are light of new day dawning.

Weak and frail we come to you, God of love and new beginning.

© Noel Donnelly,
based on Psalm 130

Communion Hymn

1 Like a mighty river flowing,
like a flower in beauty growing,
far beyond all human knowing
is the perfect peace of God.

2 Like the hills serene and even,
like the coursing clouds of heaven,
like the heart that's been forgiven
is the perfect peace of God.

3 Like the summer breezes playing,
like the tall tees softly swaying,
like the lips of silent praying
is the perfect peace of God.

4 Like the morning sun ascended,
like the scents of evening blended,
like a friendship never ended
is the perfect peace of God.

5 Like the azure ocean swelling,
like the jewel all-excelling,
far beyond all human telling
is the perfect peace of God.

Michael Perry (1942-1996)
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THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, your steadfast purpose is the completion of all things in your Son. May we who have received the pledges of the kingdom, live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Hymn

stand

1 Rejoice! The Lord is King,
your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

2 Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:

3 His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:

4 He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:

5 Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound: rejoice!

Charles Wesley (1708-1788)

The Blessing & Dismissal

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

Organ Postlude Cecilia McDowall: O Oriens

NEXT WEEK AND LOOKING AHEAD

Monday 16th December
10 – 11.30 a.m. **HT Tots Café** (last session until January)

Thursday 19th December Readings
11 a.m. **Holy Communion** Judges 13.2-7,24-25; Luke 1.5-25
11.30 a.m. **Advent Study Group** (Session 3)
8 p.m. **Advent Study Group** (Session 3 – followed by Compline)

Sunday 21st December
10.30 a.m. **Preparing the church for Christmas** (see below)

Sunday 22nd December
ADVENT 4 Readings
10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist** Micah 5.2-5a; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45

Tuesday 24th December
CHRISTMAS EVE
11.00 p.m. **Midnight Mass**

Wednesday 25th December
CHRISTMAS DAY
10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist with Carols**

(Go to https://holytrinitystirling.org/christmas-at-holy-trinity for more details of our Christmas services)

Advent Study Groups 2024

We've been meeting to read and discuss the different accounts of Jesus' Birth as found in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew and to reflect on the Prologue of John's Gospel as a way of telling the Christmas story. The final session is on Thursday 19th December after the 11 a.m. Service (so ca. 11.30 a.m.) and again at 8 p.m. (followed by Compline).

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 than ourselves. Start Up Stirling suggest that 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 to the warehouse.
Reverse Advent Calendar cards are available at the back of church.

Preparing the church for Christmas

You will be very welcome to join us to decorate the church for our Christmas services next Saturday, 21st December at 10.30am.

Christmas Re-gifting Stall

If you have any Christmas gifts that you would like to 're-gift', please bring them to Church and place them in the Santa Box at the back of Church. We plan to run a **Re-gifting Stall** on **Sunday 23rd February 2025**. Donations by cash or credit card will be gratefully received.
All proceeds will support the work of the Gardening Group.