www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Scottish Charity: SC016471

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

Sunday 5th January 2025 — 10.30 a.m. All Age Eucharist

EPIPHANY

Celebrant: The Rector
Readings: Jan Foster
Sidespeople: Rachel Campbell & Robert Nellist

PREPARATION

Organ Prelude Maurice Duruflé: Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie op.13

Opening Hymn

stand

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.

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

Opening

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

Opening Responses

Believing that God made and loves the world, **we gather.**
That it may be restored to fulfil God's purposes, **we pray.**
To seek a wisdom deeper than our own, **we listen.**
To honour God who gave us a voice, **we worship.**

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Gloria: *Peruvian Gloria*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father!
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father!
To God be glory forever. **To God be glory forever.**
Alleluia, Amen! **Alleluia, Amen, Alleluia, Amen, Alleluia, Amen!**

Glory to God, glory to God, Son of the Father!
Glory to God, glory to God, Son of the Father!
To God be glory forever. **To God be glory forever.**
Alleluia, Amen! **Alleluia, Amen, Alleluia, Amen, Alleluia, Amen!**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!
To God be glory forever. **To God be glory forever.**
Alleluia, Amen! **Alleluia, Amen, Alleluia, Amen, Alleluia, Amen!**

Collect

O God, who, by the guidance of a star, revealed your only-begotten Son to the nations: Grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at the last be led to see your glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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: Isaiah 60.1-6

sit

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. [2] For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. [3] Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. [4] Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. [5] Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. [6] A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Gradual Hymn

stand

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
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Gospel Acclamation

Repeat after the cantor

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Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12 *When it is announced:* Glory to Christ our Saviour.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to
Jerusalem, [2] asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its
rising, and have come to pay him homage.' [3] When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem
with him; [4] and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the
Messiah was to be born. [5] They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
[6] "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you
shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."' [7] Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and
learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. [8] Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,
'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and
pay him homage.' [9] When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that
they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. [10] When they saw that the star
had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. [11] On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his
mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. [12] And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left
for their own country by another road.

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

Talk: The Rector

sit

Creed *stand*

Do you believe in God the Father, who made the world?

I believe in God the Father.

Do you believe in God the Son, who redeemed humanity?

I believe in God the Son.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to God's people?

I believe in God the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Intercessions led by Mary Kenyon *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 *stand*

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offertory Hymn

1 God incarnate, living presence
of the Lord that dwells above;
come to us in human weakness,
not your power or might to prove,
but to show, in Christ among us,
what it means to live in Love.

2 God, Emmanuel, kings and scholars
travelled far to worship you,
bringing gifts, their precious treasures,
off'ring all that you were due,
finding in a humble stable
God was making all things new.

3 Here we gather, faithful people,
seeking God in human form;
some with purpose and direction;
some unsure, afraid, or worn;
now to join these ancient travellers,
come to see God's Love reborn.

4 See! We come to lay before you
costly gifts of love and care,
different kinds of faithful service,
precious lives we're called to share;
God among us, here we give you
all we have and all we are.

5 God incarnate, living Wonder,
heaven and earth in harmony;
God, Emmanuel, promised presence,
Word made flesh in Christ we see;
glory, praise and prayer we bring you!
This is our Epiphany!

© Tom Gordon

Offertory Prayer

stand

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own we give you.

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 into being, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Day and night celebrate your glory till time shall be no more. In Christ, your only-begotten Son, you have revealed yourself to the world. By the guiding of a star, you made him known to the nations as the son of David and king of Israel; that in following him, we might be led from darkness and into his marvellous light. Filled with the Spirit, who descended upon your Son at his Baptism in the Jordan, we who are baptised in his name strive for his heavenly kingdom in whose radiance we are transfigured and the earth is transformed. As children of your redeeming purpose who celebrate the manifestation 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 the Messiah you have come to us. Our hope is built on him in whom you are well pleased. Having been shown to the world as your beloved Son, he proclaimed the good news of your kingdom. The blind received their sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, and the captives set free. At his word, water became wine, the hungry were filled with bread, and the dead were raised. Before he was given up to suffering and death, desiring to complete the work for which he came into the world, 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.

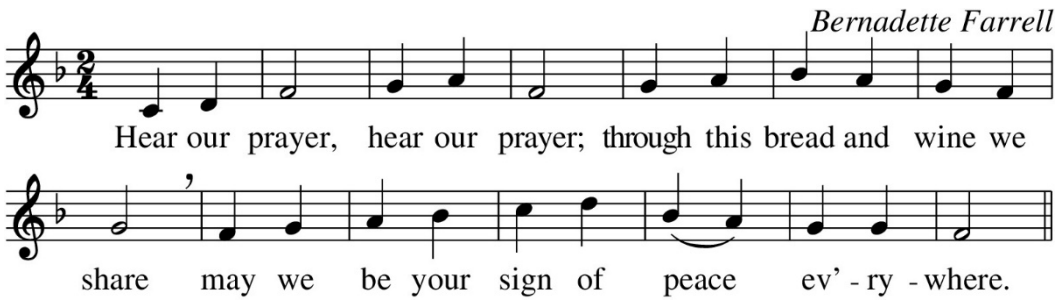
The Breaking of the Bread

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



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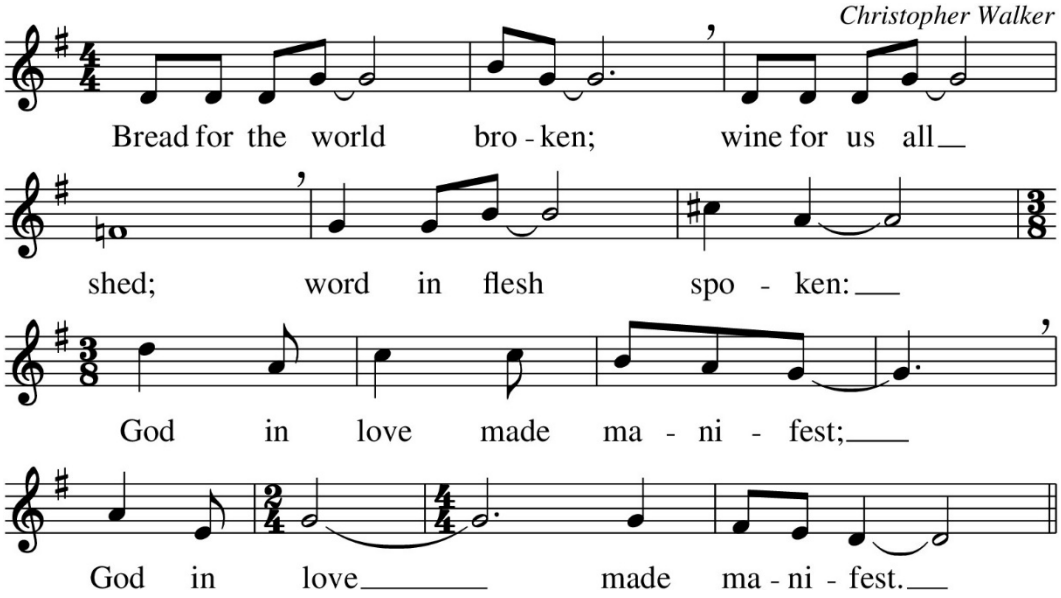
Communion *is administered in both kinds at the bottom of the chancel steps. Hand sanitiser is provided. It is perfectly acceptable to only receive the bread, should you so wish. Please do not intinct (dip the bread into the wine) as this is not considered to be a hygienic practice.*

During Communion



1 Love has come down from heaven,
love blessing all the earth,
love of our God is given,
love here in human birth. (*Refrain, as above*)

2 Love in the eyes of shepherds,
love in the virgin's joy
love in a lowly stable,
love for a holy boy (*Refrain*)

3 Love on my lips to praise him,
love in my eyes to care,
love on his hands for healing
love in his heart to share. (*Refrain*)

4 Love redeems all creation,
love is the only way,
love is our song forever,
so with the world we say:
(*Final refrain, below*)

Final Refrain: You are the bread broken; yours is the blood shed;
you are the word spoken:
you are love made manifest; you are love made manifest.

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Post Communion Song

1 Like a candle flame,
flickering small in our darkness,
uncreated light shines through infant eyes.

God is with us, alleluia,
come to save us, alleluia.

2 Stars and angels sing,
yet the earth sleeps in shadows;
can this tiny spark set a world on fire?

3 Yet his light shall shine
from our lives, Spirit blazing,
as we touch the flame of his holy fire.

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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 Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me:

Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light!

2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness:
shine on me, shine on me:

3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story:
shine on me, shine on me:

Graham Kendrick
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The Blessing & Dismissal

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

NOTICES

Monday 6th January
10 – 11.30 a.m. **HT Tots Café**

Tuesday 7th January
The **Young Adults Group** is restarting after the Christmas break on Tuesday 7th January **7:30pm-9:30pm** at St Saviour's Church Hall, Bridge of Allan. New young adults are very welcome to come along and join us for an Epiphany party this week. For more information, please email youngadultsgroup021@gmail.com

Thursday 9th January
11 a.m. **Holy Communion**

Sunday 12th January	**Readings**
BAPTISM OF CHRIST	
10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist**	Isaiah 43.1-7; Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17,21-22