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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 4th January 2026 — 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
EPIPHANY

Celebrant: The Rector
Readings: Andrew Tyler
Sidespeople: Sandy Goss & Carol Kendall

PREPARATION

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

Opening Hymn

stand

1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

2 He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

3 Kings shall bow down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing:
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

4 O'er every foe victorious
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
his changeless name of love.

James Montgomery (after Psalm 72)

Opening

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.

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.

Gloria Kilcreggan Mass (*see separate music sheet*) *stand*

Glory to God, to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Glory to God, to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Glory to God, to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us, you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer, receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, of God the Father. Amen, 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 The Word incarnate dwelt
with us that we might live;
come, let us worship and adore
the Christ, the Son of Man.

2 Filled with the Spirit's power;
the Father's only Son,
true God from God, and Light from Light,
a child, yet life divine.

3 He took this human form,
and bore an outcast's death,
a covenant in broken flesh
salvation to us brought.

4 Revealed to all on earth
this child is peace and hope;
we know him as the risen Christ,
and ever sing his praise.

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Second Reading: Ephesians 3.1-12

sit

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— [2] for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, [3] and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, [4] a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. [5] In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: [6] that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. [7] Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. [8] Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, [9] and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; [10] so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. [11] This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, [12] in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Gospel Acclamation

stand

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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.**

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 Andrew Pont *sit or kneel*

The Peace *stand*

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offertory Hymn

1 Wise men, they came to look for wisdom,
finding one wiser than they knew;
rich men, they met with one yet richer -
King of the kings, they knelt to you:
Jesus, our wisdom from above,
wealth and redemption, life and love.

2 Pilgrims they were, from unknown countries,
searching for one who knows the world;
lost are their names, and strange their journeys,
famed is their zeal to find the child:
Jesus, in you the lost are claimed,
aliens are found, and known, and named.

3 Magi, they stooped to see your splendour,
led by a star to light supreme;
promised Messiah, Lord eternal,
glory and peace are in your name.
Joy of each day, our song by night,
shine on our path your holy light.

4 Guests of their God, they opened treasures,
incense and gold and solemn myrrh,
welcoming one too young to question
how came these gifts, and what they were.
Gift beyond price of gold or gem,
make among us your Bethlehem.

Christopher Idle
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Offertory Prayer

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. *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.

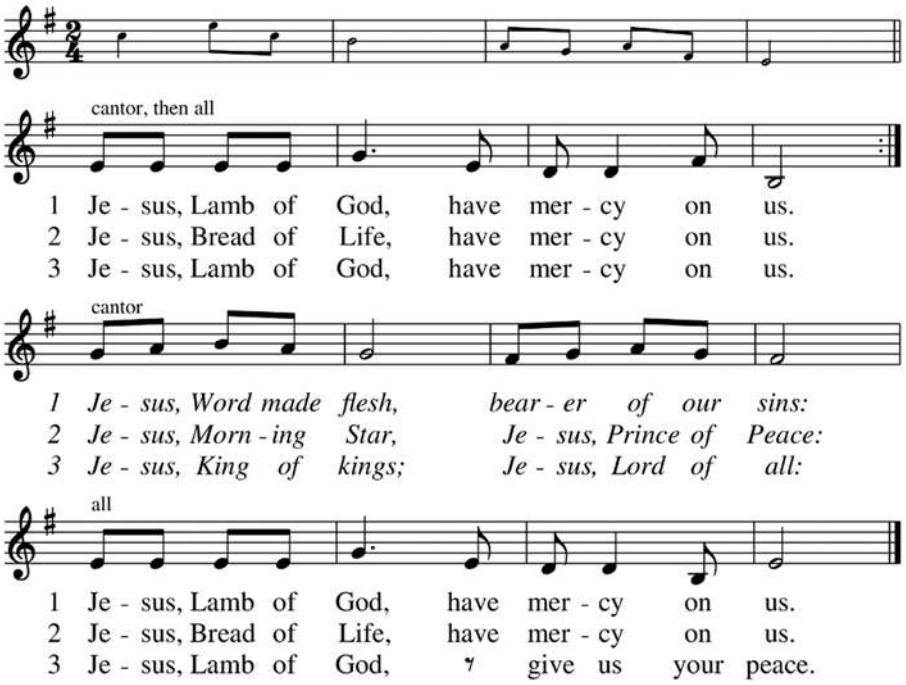
The Breaking of the Bread

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.*

Communion Hymn

1 God incarnate, living presence
of the Lord who dwells in Love;
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,
offering 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

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

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

The Blessing & Dismissal

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

Organ Postlude Johann Pachelbel: Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

NOTICES

Today
5 p.m. **Epiphany Carol Service** (singing rehearsal at 3pm)

Monday 5th January
10 – 11.30 a.m. **HT Tots Café**

Thursday 8th January 11 a.m. **Holy Communion**

Sunday 11th January
BAPTISM OF CHRIST
10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist**

Readings
Isaiah 42.1-9; Acts 10.34-43;
Matthew 3.13-17