www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Scottish Charity: SC016471

Open
inclusive
inspiring
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deep

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

Sunday 10th December 2023 — 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
ADVENT 2

Celebrant: The Revd Val Nellist
Readings: Nikki Jorgensen
Sidespeople: Cate & Barrie Watson

Offerings at Holy Trinity – No Collection is taken during services. If you wish to make an Offering, please use one of the baskets at the back of the Church before or after the service. Gift Aid donation envelopes and a Card Reader for debit or credit cards are also both available. Contributions go towards the Ministry and running costs or to any special collections announced. All are gratefully received. Registered Scottish Charity SC016471.

PREPARATION

Organ Prelude Johann Sebastian Bach: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 599

Opening Hymn

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost, for evermore.

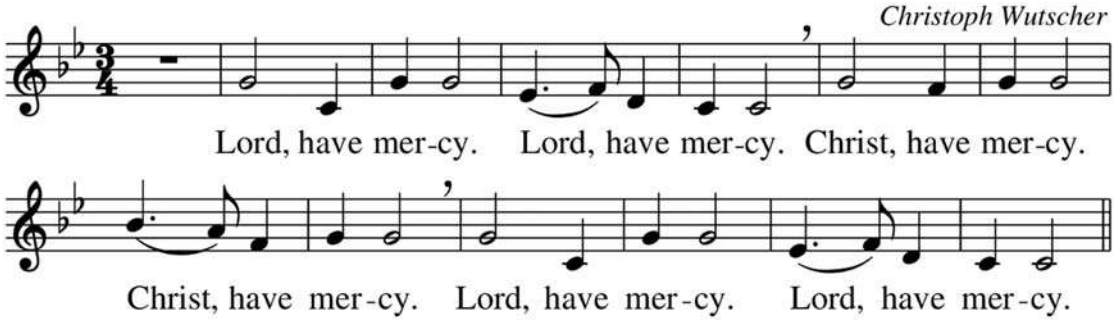
Charles Coffin alt.

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 hearts, Lord, to prepare the way of your only-begotten Son: that, in his coming, we might serve you with our hearts made pure; 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 40.1-11 (*please sit*)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. [2] Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. [3] A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. [4] Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. [5] Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' [6] A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. [7] The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. [8] The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. [9] Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' [10] See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. [11] He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Gradual Chant

The verses are sung by a cantor. Please join in the refrain:

1 O Lord of light, our only hope of glory,
your radiance shines on all who look to you,
come light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

2 O spring of Joy, rain down on upon our spirits,
our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word,
come, make us whole, be comfort in our hearts.

3 O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,
And in your advent, draw us all to you,
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.

Text: Psalm 95 & O Antiphons
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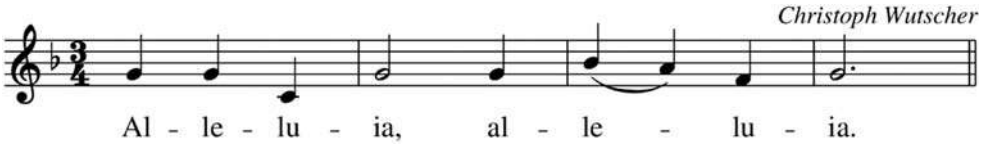
Second Reading: 2 Peter 3.8-15*a*

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand
years are like one day. [9] The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with
you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. [10] But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the
earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. [11] Since all these things are to be dissolved in this
way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, [12] waiting for and
hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and
the elements will melt with fire? [13] But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new
earth, where righteousness is at home. [14] Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to
be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; [15] and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Gospel Acclamation (*please stand*)



Gospel: Mark 1.1-8 (*please stand*) *When it is announced:* Glory to Christ our Saviour.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. [2] As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I
am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; [3] the voice of one crying out in the
wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"', [4] John the baptizer appeared in the
wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [5] And people from the whole
Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the
river Jordan, confessing their sins. [6] Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his
waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. [7] He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming
after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. [8] I have baptized you with water;
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

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

Sermon: The Revd Val Nellist

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 Alistair Shaw (*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*)

Refrain: *Come to set us free, come to make us your own.*
Come to show the way to your people, your chosen.
Open our lives to the light of your promise.
Come to our hearts with healing, come to our minds with power,
come to us and bring us your life.

1 You are light which shines in darkness, Morning Star which never sets.
Open our eyes which only dimly see the truth which sets us free.

2 You are hope which brings us courage, you are strength which never fails.
Open our minds to ways we do not know, but where your Spirit grows.

3 You are promise of salvation, you are God in human form.
Bring to our world of emptiness and fear the Word we long to hear.

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Offertory Prayer (*please stand*)

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 this 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 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 his 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.

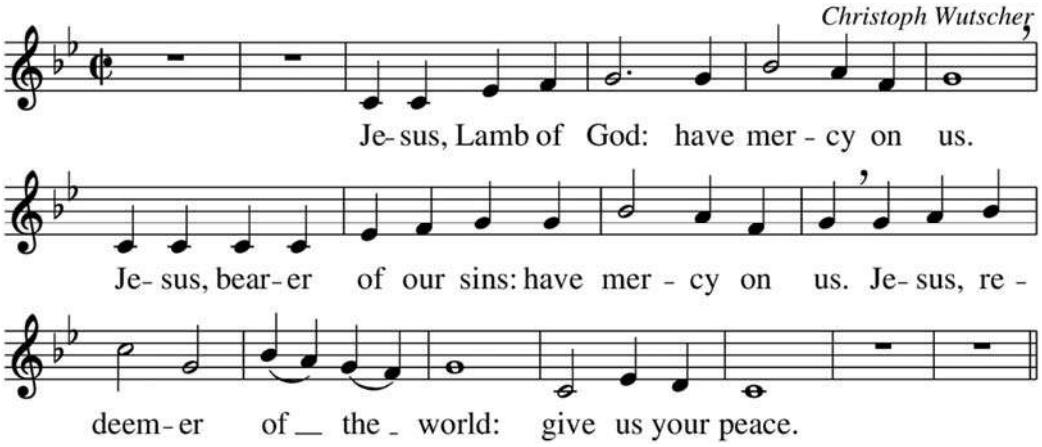
The Breaking of the Bread

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 Hymn

1 Year by year, from past to future
worship marks our upward climb,
sets the rhythm of our journey
to eternity through time:
though the outward things diminish
we are held more firm by grace,
following God's heavenward calling
and the everlasting prize.

2 As we seek to weave life's fabric
on the lengthening loom of days,
may Christ guide the threads that form it,
be the pattern it displays;
may the Father, master craftsman,
sorrowing over each mistake,
plan for us a new perfection
from the ugliness we make.

3 Though we long for the adventure
of the mystery of bliss,
to the pilgrim's eyes the pathway
breaks, and ends in death's abyss;
but within the dark are waiting
hands that bear the print of nails,
which will hold us safe and bear us
where the worship never fails.

Alan Luff
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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 (*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

The Blessing & Dismissal

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

Organ Postlude

NOTICES

Monday 11th December
10 – 11 a.m. **HT Tots Café** (final meeting before Christmas)
12 noon **Funeral John Campbell**

Wednesday 13th December
10.30 a.m. **Advent Study Group** (Session 2)

Thursday 14th December
11 a.m. **Holy Communion**
8 p.m. **Advent Study Group** (Session 2)

Sunday 17th December	**Readings**
ADVENT 3	Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24;
10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist**	John 1.6-8, 19-28

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 **Shelter Scotland** to help combat homelessness, 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)

Christmas flowers

If anyone wishes to donate to the Christmas flowers, there is a jar at the back of church for your donation. The church will be decorated on Friday 22nd December at 3pm. All are welcome to help.