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 24th December 2023 — 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
ADVENT 4

Celebrant: The Rector
Readings: Rachel Campbell
Sidespeople: Jan Foster & Helen Kemp

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

Opening Hymn

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

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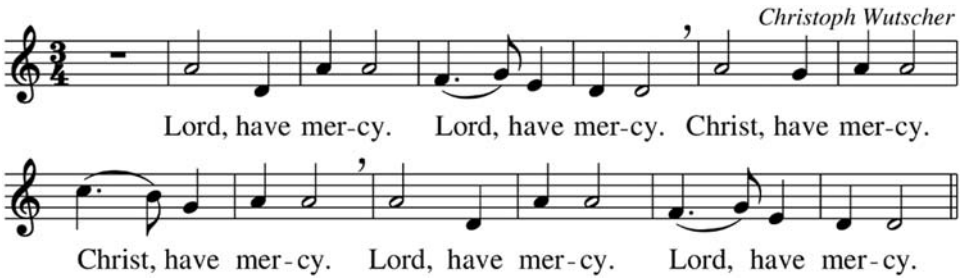
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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 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: 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16 (*please sit*)

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around
him, [2] the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays
in a tent." [3] Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." [4] But that
same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: [5] Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you
the one to build me a house to live in? [6] I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of
Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. [7] Wherever I have
moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel,
whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of
cedar?" [8] Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from
the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; [9] and I have been with you wherever
you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the
name of the great ones of the earth. [10] And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so
that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as
formerly, [11] from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your
enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. [16] Your house and your
kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Canticle: Magnificat (*please join in saying the text in **bold**, pausing shortly at the *asterisk*)

Refrain: My spirit rejoices **in God my Saviour.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,*
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant.*
From this day all generations will call me blessed:

You, the Almighty, have done great things for me*
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you,*
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm*
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

casting down the mighty from their thrones*
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,*
to remember the promise of mercy,

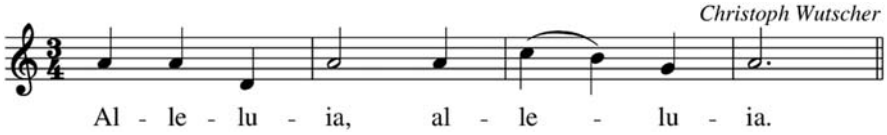
the promise made to our forebears,*
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Refrain: My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

Second Reading: Romans 16.25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages [26] but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— [27] to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation
(*please stand*)



Gospel: Luke 1.26-38 (*please stand*) *When it is announced:* Glory to Christ our Saviour.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, [27] to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. [28] And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." [29] But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. [30] The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. [31] And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. [32] He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. [33] He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." [34] Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" [35] The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. [36] And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. [37] For nothing will be impossible with God." [38] Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

Sermon: The Revd Dr Rebekah Sims

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 Cate Watson (*please sit or kneel*)
Sung Response: Through our lives and by our prayers, your kingdom come.

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

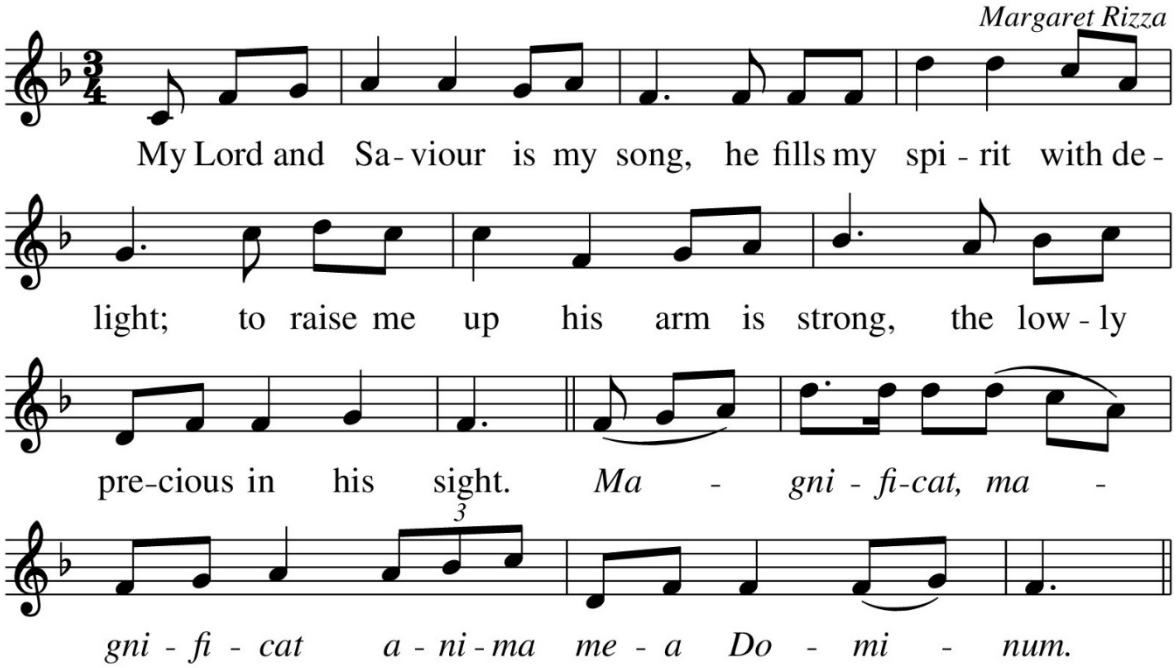
God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry.
Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil.
For the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our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



Words and Music:
Margaret Rizza
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2 My name shall live from age to age
and every tongue his servant bless.
For mercy is their heritage,
whose hearts the Holy One confess.

3 The proud beguiled by dreams of power,
divided and degraded lie.
He casts them down from throne and tower,
and stoops to lift the humble high.

4 He feeds the hungry at his board
and sends the rich unfilled away.
And, mindful of his promised word,
has answered Israel's prayers today.

5 With all the elders of our race
and those unborn who seek this birth,
I sing the glory of his race
and bring eternity to earth.

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.

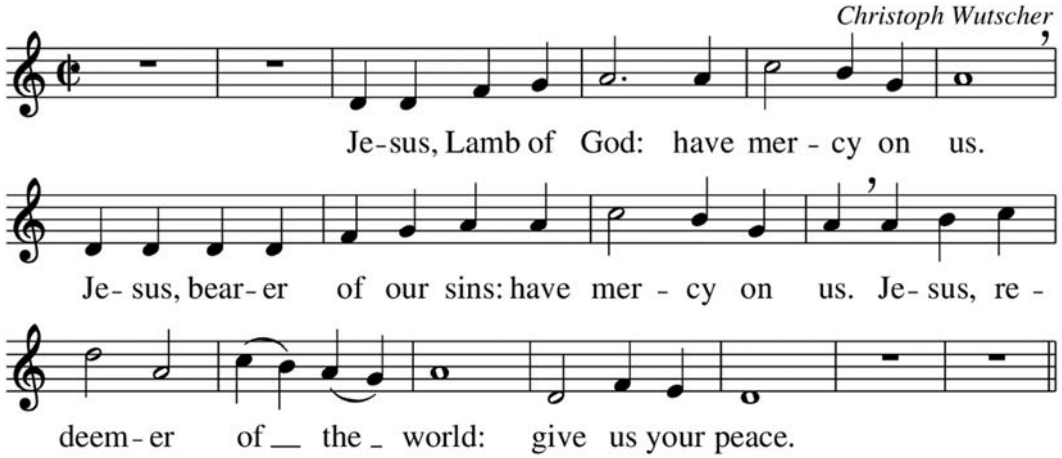
The Breaking of the Bread

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.*

During Communion

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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Communion Hymn

1 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

2 'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head'
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Basque Carol
paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould

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 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.

Come with your love to make us whole…

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.

Maggi Dawn
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The Blessing & Dismissal

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

Organ Postlude

NOTICES

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 AT HOLY TRINITY

Tonight
CHRISTMAS EVE
11 p.m. **Midnight Mass**

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

No service on Thursday 28th December

Sunday 31st December
CHRISTMAS 1
10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist**

Thursday 4th January
11 a.m. **Holy Communion**

Sunday 7th January
EPIPHANY
10.30 a.m. **All Age Eucharist**
6.30 p.m. **Epiphany Carol Service**