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# 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](mailto:rector@holytrinitystirling.org)

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**  
**CHRISTMAS 1**

**10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist**

**Celebrant:** The Revd Val Nellist

**Readings:** Jane Morris

**Sidespeople:** Fiona Macleod & Libby Coats

*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** Vidas Pinkevicius: Meditation on Divinum Mysterium op.159

**Opening Hymn** (*please stand*)

1 Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see  
evermore and evermore.

2 O that birth forever blessed,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.

3 O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions bow before him,  
and extol our God and King:  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.

Prudentius (348-c.413)  
tr. John Mason Neale

**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*)                      (*please 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, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our Saviour, so we may with confidence behold him as he comes to be our Judge; 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 61.10-62.3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines

out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### Gradual Hymn (*please stand*)

1 The root of Jesse now has flowered,  
for Sarah's daughter bears a son;  
behold the Mother of our God  
draws to her breast the Holy One.

2 The co-eternal Word of God  
is cradled now in slumber deep:  
who holds the planets to their course  
now nestles in her arms, asleep.

3 The law which girds the universe,  
God's Torah teaching Wisdom's ways,  
in Mary, both have been enfleshed –  
a source of scandal and God's praise.

4 This Jewish daughter's bold consent,  
her wonderment, her 'Let it be!'  
has touched the very depths of God  
and ever changed the way we see.

Aelred-Seton Shanley alt. © Archdiocese of Chicago

### Second Reading: Galatians 4.4-7 (*please sit*)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup> And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

### Gospel Acclamation (*please stand*)

Alan Rees OSB

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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### Gospel: Luke

2.22-40 (*please stand*) **When it is announced: Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have

seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' <sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' <sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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 Robert Nellist (*please sit or kneel*)

**The Peace** (*please stand*)

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

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### Offertory Hymn (*please stand*)

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him praise,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

3 So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
all tongues and people own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let every heart enthrone him:  
raise, raise your song on high  
while Mary sings a lullaby,  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

William Chatterton Dix

2 Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Come, have no fear, God's Son is here,  
his love all loves exceeding:  
nails, spear, shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail the Saviour comes,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

### Offertory Prayer (*please 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 Word became flesh, and on this day was born of the Virgin Mary. He emptied himself, taking our human form, that through his incarnation and passion we might come to share in his divine nature. Filled with the Spirit, who at the first Creation moved over the face of the waters, and overshadowed the blessed Virgin at Nazareth, we await with joy the fulfilment of your new Creation. As children of your redeeming purpose who celebrate the birth 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, and lived for a time among us, that we might for ever live with you. In the manger at Bethlehem, in his flight to Egypt, and as the carpenter's son, the Only-begotten bent low to meet us. Obedient to your calling, he accepted death on the cross. When you exalted him on the third day, and bestowed on him the name above all names, he opened the gate of glory that we might be your children, and share in his kingdom of Peace. 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.

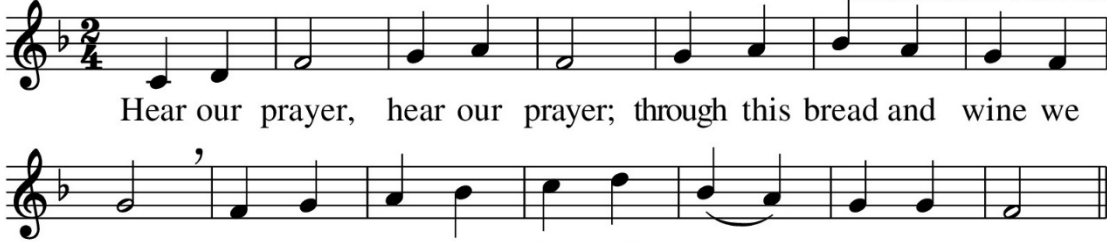
Do not bring us to the time of trial but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

## Agnus Dei

*Bernadette Farrell*



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer; through this bread and wine we  
share may we be your sign of peace ev' - ry - where.

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

### Communion Hymn

1 Sing with joy this blessed morn:  
unto us a child is born,  
unto us a Son is given,  
God himself comes down from heaven.

2 God from God and Light from Light  
comes with mercies infinite,  
joining in a wondrous plan  
comes to earth as Son of Man.

3 God with us, Emmanuel,  
deigns for ever now to dwell;  
he to Adam's fallen race  
freely gives abundant grace.

4 God comes down that we may rise,  
by him lifted to the skies;  
Christ is Son of Man that we  
one with God in him may be.

Christopher Wordsworth, revised Ralph Wright OneLicense # A-632863

## 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 Unto us a boy is born!  
King of all creation,  
came he to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation.

2 Cradled in a stall was he  
with sleepy cows and asses;  
but the very beasts could see  
that he all men surpasses.

3 Herod then with fear was filled:  
'A prince,' he said, 'in Jewry!'  
all the little boys he killed  
at Bethl'em in his fury.

5 Omega and Alpha he!  
let the organ thunder,  
while the choir with peals of glee  
shall rend the air asunder.

4 Now may Mary's son, who came  
so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us.

Latin, 15<sup>th</sup> century  
tr. Percy Dearmer

### **The Blessing & Dismissal**

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

**Organ Postlude** Louis-Claude Daquin: Noël

## **NOTICES**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

11 a.m. **Holy Communion**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

**EPIPHANY**

10.30 a.m. **All Age Eucharist**

6.30 p.m. **Epiphany Carol Service**