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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)

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist**

**Celebrant:** The Rector

**Readings:** Tony Mitchell

**Sidespeople:** Nick & Jane Morris

*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** Helmut Walcha: Chorale Prelude on 'Den die Hirten lobten sehre'

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

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the King of Angels:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

2 God of God,  
Light of Light,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created:

3 See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too with thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:

4 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God  
in the highest:

5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:

Latin 18<sup>th</sup> century, tr. Frederick Oakley et al

**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 our Father, the light of whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
grant that the radiance of that true light, which enlightens our minds by faith, may shine  
brightly through our words and deeds; 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 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar



## **Gospel: Luke 2.1-20** (*please stand*)

*When it is announced: Glory to Christ our Saviour.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**Sermon:** The Revd Ian Boa

## **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 David Brown (*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 It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven's all-gracious King.'  
the world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world:  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing;  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
the nations, still at war, hear not  
the love song which they bring:  
O hush the noise and cease the strife  
to hear the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophet-bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years,  
comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

Edmund H. Sears alt.

**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

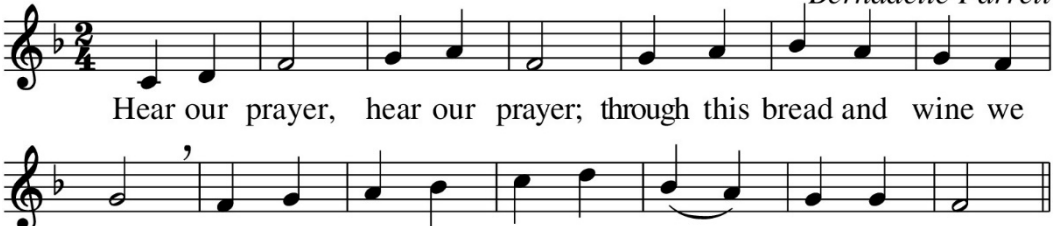
The living bread is broken for the life of the world. **Lord, unite us in this sign.**

## 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 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and take us to heaven to live with thee there.

## 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 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Isaac Watts

### The Blessing & Dismissal

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

**Organ Postlude** Theodore Dubois: Toccata (from *Douze Pièces pour orgue*)

### NOTICES

No service this week on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

CHRISTMAS 1

10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist**

**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**