

St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church



Christmas Service 2021

A very warm welcome on this special day

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.
The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.
And we beheld his glory.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

Holy God you left the glory of heaven to take upon yourself our fragile humanity. You came to us in love and yet we denied you room and you were laid in a manger. We have lit candles of hope, peace, love and joy, may these virtues shine brightly in our lives as we welcome you into our hearts this Christmas. Amen.

HYMN 265 – Good Christians all, rejoice

**Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now:
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!**

**Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this.
He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest for evermore:
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this.**

**Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save;
calls you one, and calls you all,
to gain his everlasting hall:
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save.**

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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.**

GLORIA

Please stand

**Glory 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.**

**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.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

Collect of the Day

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 62. 6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night

they shall never be silent.

You who remind the Lord,

take no rest,

and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand

and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain

to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine

for which you have laboured;

but those who garner it shall eat it

and praise the Lord,

and those who gather it shall drink it

in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,

prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway,

clear it of stones,

lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The Lord has proclaimed

to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,
‘See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.’

They shall be called, ‘The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord’;
and you shall be called, ‘Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.’

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Titus 3.4-7

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn – O little town of Bethlehem

Please stand

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love;**

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,
descent to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

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GOSPEL: LUKE 2. 8-20

Hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' 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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 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 his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Please sit

ADDRESS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through
faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Please sit or kneel

THE PEACE

Please stand

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

We meet in Christ's name.

Let us share his peace.

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offertory Hymn 409 – Joy to the world

**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.**

**Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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, and wonders of his love.**

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Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made;
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
it will become the cup of our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Father,
in every place and at all times.

You made us, all the people of the world,
and everything that is.

You give us the daylight.

Your Word lights up our minds.

Jesus was born among us
to be light in our darkness.

Your Spirit lives in us
so that we can look at the world with your eyes.

One day we will be with you in heaven,
but already we laugh with the saints and angels,
and sing their joyful song:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

Please sit

Father, you never forget us or turn away from us,
even when we fail you.

You sent your Son Jesus
who gave his life for us.

He healed those who were sick,
cared for those who were poor,
and cried with those who were sad.
He forgave sinners
and taught us to forgive.

For all your love, we give you thanks
in the way that Jesus showed us.

On the night before he died,
while he was having supper with his friends,
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."

**So, as we do what he told us,
we open our hearts to him;
we remember how he died and rose again
to live now in us.**

Together with him we offer you these gifts:
in them we give you ourselves.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on this bread and this wine,
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ,
and that, sharing your life,
we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

With all your people
we give you thanks and praise
through the Son and in the Spirit,
now and for ever.

Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

Lord, unite us in this sign.

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

INVITATION

The gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome to receive on this holy morning.

Communion Hymn 59 – Away in a manger

**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.**

**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.**

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

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William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)*

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Give thanks to our gracious God
Whose mercy endures for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Father of all, the child born for us is the Saviour of the
world. May he who made us your children welcome us
into your kingdom, where he is alive and reigns with you
now and for ever. Amen.**

HYMN 534 – O come, all ye faithful
Please stand

**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!***

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

O come, let us adore him

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

O come, let us adore him

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

O come, let us adore him

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trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)*

BLESSING

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

Wishing you a safe, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

