

*St Peter's Scottish Episcopal
Church, Kirkcaldy*

Carols and Communion

Sunday 22nd December 2024



“Luke’s Christmas Story”

On behalf of the Vestry and congregation we welcome you to St Peter's Episcopal Church to our service today.

Christine Fraser, Rector.

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The words in **Bold Type** are said or sung by everyone.

There is no offertory collection during the service; if you wish to give an offering, please place in the plate at the right-hand side of the door as you enter the church. Many thanks.

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CAROL

O come, O come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

3. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory over the grave. *Refrain*

4. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

5. O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

WELCOME

BIDDING PRAYER

Look now!
It is happening again!
Love like a high spring tide
Is swelling to fullness and overflowing
The banks of our small concerns.

And here again is the star,
That white flame of truth
Blazing the way for us
Through a desert of tired words.

Once more comes the music,
The angel song that lifts our hearts
And tunes our ears
To the harmony of the universe,
Making us wonder how
We ever could have forgotten.

And now the magi within us
Gathers up gifts of gold and myrrh,
While that other part of ourselves,
The impulsive, reckless shepherd,
Runs helter skelter with arms outstretched
To embrace the wonder of it all.

We have no words
To contain our praise.
We ache with awe,
We tremble with miracle
As once again
In the small rough stable of our lives,
Christ is born.

COLLECT

Lord our God,
on the first day of creation
you made the light that scatters all darkness.
Let Christ, the light of lights,
hidden from all eternity,
shine at last on your people
and free us from the darkness of sin.
Fill our lives with joy
as we go out to welcome your Son at his coming.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Luke 1. 26-38 The Birth of Jesus is announced

CAROL *Long ago, prophets knew*

1. **Long ago, prophets knew**
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Refrain:
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

2. **God in time, God in man,**
this is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human: *Refrain*
3. **Mary hail! Though afraid,**
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected, *Refrain*

4. Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlehem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry! *Refrain*

Second Reading: Luke 1. 39-45 Mary visits Elizabeth

CAROL *A great and mighty wonder*

1. A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin-honour pure:
Refrain: Repeat the hymn again!
*"To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men."*
2. The Word becomes incarnate,
and yet remains on high;
and cherubim sing anthems
to shepherds from the sky; *Refrain*
3. While thus they sing your Monarch,
those bright angelic bands,
rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
ye oceans, clap your hands: *Refrain*
4. Since all he comes to ransom,
by all be he adored,
the infant born in Bethlehem,
the Saviour and the Lord: *Refrain*

Third Reading: Luke 1.46-55 The Magnificat

CAROL

The Angel Gabriel

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!
2. "For know 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 God's holy name."
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk through-out the world will ever say:
"Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

Fourth Reading: Luke 1. 57-66 The Birth of John

CAROL *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

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

Fifth Reading: The Benedictus Zechariahs Hymn

Blessed be the Lord, The God of Israel;
He has come to His people and set them free.

**He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
Born of the house of His servant David.**

Through His holy prophets He promised of old
That He would save us from our enemies,
From the hands of all who hate us.

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers
And to remember His holy Covenant.**

This was the oath He swore to our father Abraham:
To set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship Him without fear,
Holy and righteous in His sight
All the days of our life.**

You, My child shall be called
the prophet of the Most High,

**For you will go before the Lord to prepare His way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation
By the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our Lord
The dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness

**And the shadow of death,
And to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

CAROL *Away in a Manger*

1. **Away in a manger, no crib for his 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 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.**

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Let us pray
that God our Father will bless this crib,
and that all who worship his Son,
born of the Virgin Mary,
may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin
Mary for us and for our salvation; bless this crib,
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring;
who lives and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

CAROL

O Little one Sweet

1. O Little One Sweet, O Little One Mild,
Thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled;
Thou cam'st from heaven to mortal ken,
Equal to be with us poor men,
O Little One Sweet, O Little One Mild.
2. O Little One Sweet, O Little One Mild,
With joy thou hast the whole world fulfilled;
Thou camest here from heaven's domain,
To bring men comfort in their pain,
O Little One Sweet, O Little One Mild.
3. O Little One Sweet, O Little One Mild,
In thee Love's beauties are all distilled;
Then light in us thy love's bright flame,
That we may give thee back the same,
O Little one Sweet, O Little One Mild.

Sixth Reading: Luke 2. 1-7 The Birth of Jesus

CAROL

Once In Royal David's City

1. Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3. **And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.**

4. **And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.**

Seventh Reading: Luke 2. 8-20 The Shepherds and the Angels

THE INTERCESSIONS

THE CONFESSION

Confession and Absolution

God is love and we are God's children.

There is no room for fear in love.

We love because God first loved us.

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.

Peace

We meet in Christ's name.

Let us share his peace.

We share the sign of peace with each other

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The taking of the Bread and the Wine

Offering

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

CAROL

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Refrain:
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

Prayers of Offering

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer II

Anticipation (*Suitable for Advent*)

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.**

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 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 Sharing of the Bread and the Wine

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 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**

or

**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 Song

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace.

Communion

Baptised members of other Christian churches are welcome to receive communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward to the altar rail carrying this booklet.

At the giving of the bread:
The Body of Christ given for you.

At the giving of the cup:
The Blood of Christ shed for you.

The Communicant replies **Amen.**

CAROL Silent Night

1. **Silent night! Holy night!**
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. **Silent night! Holy night!**
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing: "Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!"

3. **Silent night! Holy night!**
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

4. **Silent night! Holy night!**
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King:
"Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born."

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Sentence

We give thanks to you God for you are gracious
And your mercy endures for ever.

BLESSING

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children.

Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the Godbearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

CAROL Angels from the Realms of Glory

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Refrain:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ Amen

