

St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy



Wednesday 25th December 2024, 10.00am Christmas Day

Welcome to St Peter's Episcopal Church to this Christmas Day service to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On behalf of the Vestry and Congregation of St Peter's may I wish you a Happy Christmas.

Thank you for joining us. It is the Scottish Episcopal Church's tradition that all baptised members of any Christian denomination are welcome to receive communion. If, however you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward to the rail, holding your service book.

Christine Fraser, Rector.

Bob Barrett, Priest

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

Communion will be dispensed from the altar rail in two kinds. Please come forward and kneel or stand at the rail. The bread will be dispensed by the officiant and wine by chalice bearers.

Intinction is not the tradition of the SEC, since the Institution of the Eucharist by Jesus was by a Common Cup. It is perfectly acceptable to receive communion in one kind and that act constitutes full communion. If you wish to receive the bread only, please move away from the altar rail immediately after receiving in order to assist the chalice bearers. Please **GUIDE** the chalice to the lips if necessary to help.

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Scottish Liturgy 1982

PREPARATION

Introit Hymn Unto us a boy is born

1. **Unto us a boy is born!**
The King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of ev'ry nation.
2. **Cradled in a stall was he**
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he the world surpasses.
3. **Herod then with fear was filled:**
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"
And all the little boys he killed
At Beth'hem in his fury.
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.
5. **Alpha and Omega he!**
Now let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Shall rend the air asunder.

Welcome 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.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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. Amen.

Collect of the day

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament

Reading (Page 717) Isaiah 52.7-10

Responsorial

Psalm 98 (alternative verses are said by the reader and congregation)

1. Sing a new song to the Lord;
he has done wonderful things!
By his own power and holy strength he has won the victory.
2. **The Lord announced his victory;
he made his saving power known to the nations.**
3. He kept his promise to the people of Israel
with loyalty and constant love for them.
All people everywhere have seen the victory of our God.
4. **Sing for joy to the Lord, all the earth;
praise him with songs and shouts of joy!**
5. Sing praises to the Lord!
Play music on the harps!
6. **Blow trumpets and horns,
and shout for joy to the Lord, our king.**
7. Roar, sea, and every creature in you;
sing, earth, and all who live on you!
8. **Clap your hands, you rivers;
you hills, sing together with joy before the Lord,**
9. because he comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the peoples of the world
with justice and fairness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Epistle (Page 275) Hebrews 1.1-12

Gradual Hymn 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]

**Gospel
acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia.

Gospel

(Page 116) John 1.1-14

When gospel is announced:

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

At end:

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon

The Revd Canon Christine Fraser, Rector

Nicene Creed

**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.
Who with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and glorified.
And 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

*Prayer is offered
for the world and its people,
for those who suffer and those in need,
for the church and its members.*

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 our immediate neighbours

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offering

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn Christians awake

1. **Christians, awake, salute the happy morn,
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love,
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings were begun
of God incarnate and the virgin's Son.**
2. **Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard th'angelic herald's voice: "Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations of the earth;
this day hath God fulfilled His promised word;
this day is born a Savior, Christ the Lord."**
3. **He spake, and straightway the celestial choir
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
the praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heav'n's whole orb with alleluias rang;
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
peace on the earth, and unto all good will.**

4. To Beth'hem straight the happy shepherds ran,
to see the wonder God had wrought for man;
and found, with Joseph and the blessed maid,
her Son, the Savior, in a manger laid;
amazed, the wondrous story they proclaim,
the earliest heralds of the Savior's name.

5. Oh, may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind!
Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
from His poor manger to His bitter cross.
Tread in His steps, assisted by His grace,
till our imperfect state God doth replace.

6. Then may we hope, th'angelic hosts among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;
He that was born upon this joyful day
around us all His glory shall display;
saved by His love, incessant we shall sing
eternal praise to heav'n's almighty King.

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 Ia

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 Jesus 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 who 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.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you,
most loving Father.

In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us,
and lived among us,
that we might forever live with you.

In the manger at Bethlehem,
in his flight to Egypt,

and as the carpenter's son,
the Only Begotten humbled himself 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 your 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,
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.**

Communion Hymn Away in a manger

1. **Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the heavens 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 fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Sentence We give thanks to you Lord, for you are gracious.
And your mercy endures for ever.

Post Communion 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.

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.

Recessional

Hymn O come all ye faithful

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.

Refrain:

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

2. God from true God, and
Light from Light eternal,
born of a virgin, to earth he comes!
Only-begotten Son of God the Father: [Refrain]

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: [Refrain]

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]