

**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.**

**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;

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

4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

**Dismissal**

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

*St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy*

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*Christmas Eve 7pm Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021*

Registered Charity SC014403

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

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

*Christine Fraser, Rector.*

*Stuart Gray, Assistant Priest*

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

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**Introit Hymn:** 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. For He is our childhood's pattern;  
Day by day, like us, He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles, like us He knew;  
And He cares when we are sad,  
And he shares when we are glad.
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.

**Welcome**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Communion Hymn:** Silent Night

1. *verse in German*
2. 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.
3. Silent night, Holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the Saviour, is born!  
Christ the Saviour, is born!
4. 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.

**Sentence**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious.  
**And his mercy endures for ever.**

**Prayer after Communion**

**Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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 has taught us, so we pray:

**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 forever. 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**

*At the giving of the bread:*

The Body and Blood of Christ given for you. **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 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.

**Peace**

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

## Carol

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:  
yet in your dark streets shining is everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.
2. 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 wondering love.
3. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven:  
no ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him - still the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend 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.

## Baby Jesus to the crib

## 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.**

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 his 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,

He emptied himself, taking our human form,  
That through his incarnation and passion  
we might come to share in his divine nature.

As children of your redeeming purpose  
who celebrate the birth of your Son,  
we offer you our praise,  
with angels and archangels  
St Peter 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 lived among us  
that we might for ever live with you.  
In the manger at Bethlehem,  
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,

### **Collect of the day**

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, so bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading** (Isaiah 62.6-12)

**Carol** While shepherds watched their flocks by night

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around
2. "To you in David's Town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign."
3. "The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed  
And meanly wrapped in swathing bands  
And in a manger laid."
4. "All glory be to God on high  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will is shown from heaven above  
and never more will cease

**Epistle** (Page 272) Titus 3.4-7

**Gospel acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia! "I bring you news of great joy, joy for all nations,  
for today is born our saviour, Christ the Lord." Alleluia.**

**Gospel (please remain standing) Luke 2. 1-20**

*When it is announced:*

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

*At end:*

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

**Sermon**

**Intercessions**

**Peace** Christ the Prince of Peace is born for us. We meet in Christ's name.

**Let us share his peace.**

**THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

*The taking of the Bread and the Wine*

**Offertory Hymn:** It came upon the midnight clear

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, goodwill to you  
From heavens 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. And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow;  
Look now, for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing;  
Oh rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing.

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold,  
When the new heaven and earth shall own  
The Prince of Peace, their King,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas**

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.