

St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy



Christmas Eve 11.30pm Tuesday 24th December 2024

Registered Charity SC014403

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 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. Medical grade wipes will continue to be used after each communicant has received. 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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Introit 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, good will to men,
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. And ye, 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.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

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 (sung)

**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

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.**

The Old Testament Reading, the Psalm and the New Testament Reading are read by a member of the Readers Group.

Old Testament Reading (Page 677) Isaiah 9.2-7

Psalm 96 (alternate verses are read by the reader and the congregation)

1. The Lord is king! Earth, be glad!
Rejoice, you islands of the seas!
2. **Clouds and darkness surround him;
he rules with righteousness and justice.**
3. Fire goes in front of him
and burns up his enemies around him.
4. **His lightning lights up the world;
the earth sees it and trembles.**
5. The hills melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.
6. **The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the nations see his glory.**
7. Everyone who worships idols is put to shame;
all the gods bow down[a] before the Lord.
8. **The people of Zion are glad,
and the cities of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments, O Lord.**

9. Lord Almighty, you are ruler of all the earth;
you are much greater than all the gods.
- 10. The Lord loves those who hate evil;
he protects the lives of his people;
he rescues them from the power of the wicked.**
11. Light shines on the righteous,
and gladness on the good.
- 12. All you that are righteous be glad
because of what the Lord has done!
Remember what the holy God has done,
and give thanks to him.**

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

Epistle (Page 268) Titus 2.11-14

Gradual Hymn: While shepherds watched their flocks by night

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
2. "Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.
3. "To you, in David's town, this day
s born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4. "The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."

5. Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6. "All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
to those on whom his favour rests
goodwill shall never cease."

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 The Revd Bob Barrett

Intercessions *Prayer is offered
for the world and its people,
for those who suffer and those in need,
for the church and its members.
Composed and prayed on behalf of the congregation by a
Member of the Intercessors Group.*

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.

(We share a sign of peace with our immediate neighbours)

Offering: Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

Offertory 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. **And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the gentle mother
in whose tender arms he lay:
Christian children all should be
kind, obedient, good as he.**
4. **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 feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.**
5. **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.**
6. **Not in that poor lowly stable
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

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.

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. **Amen.**

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

Communion Hymn: *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 Savior is born!
Christ the Savior 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."**

Sentence

We give thanks to you Lord for you are gracious
And your 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.

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.**

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]**

Dismissal

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

Christmas and New Year Services

Wednesday 25th December	Christmas Day	10.00am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 29 th December	Christmas 1	9.15am Eucharist 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Wednesday 1 st January		NO SERVICE
Sunday 5 th January	Epiphany	9.15am Eucharist 10.30am Sung Eucharist