



The Parish Church of St Cuthbert

Dr Hazel Hastie MSc CQSW PhD AIWS *Interim Moderator*

The Revd Suzie Stark BD(Min) *Locum Minister*

Mr Graham Maclagan BMus PGDE CertTh *Director of Music*

The Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday

Sunday 14 December 2025

Welcome to worship.

Today is the **Third Sunday of Advent**. The season of Advent is traditionally a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both Jesus' birth at Christmas, and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming. The liturgical colour for this season of penitential preparation is **purple**. In the Sarum Rite, **blue** is also appointed for this season, symbolising hope, expectation, and the anticipation of Christ's birth. On this **Gaudete Sunday**, the readings emphasise that joyous anticipation of the Lord's coming. **Rose pink** is, therefore, the liturgical colour for this Sunday, along with **purple** and **blue**.

Hymns are unannounced and sung standing unless otherwise indicated. Please ask one of the Duty Elders if there is not a hymnbook (purple Church Hymnary) near your seat.

The text of the **Psalm** can either be found in this Order of Service, or in the hymnbook at the hymn number indicated. The **Alleluia**, the **Creed** and the **Lord's Prayer** can also be found in the hymnbook at the numbers indicated in this Order of Service.

Bible Readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version. Please ask one of the Duty Elders if you would like a copy.

Please join us after the service in the Lammermuir Hall for tea and coffee.

Please note this service is being filmed and broadcast live on the church's website and YouTube channel. If you do not wish to be seen, please make your wishes known.
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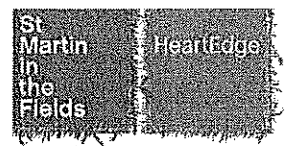


The Church of Scotland

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APPROACH TO GOD

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory. Alleluia!

THE ADVENT PROSE

Drop down, ye heavens from above, and let the skies
pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember
iniquity forever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a
wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: Our holy and our
beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

Text from the Advent Prose
Music: plainchant

OPENING SENTENCE

I wait for the Lord with longing; I put hope in his word.
**My soul waits for the Lord more eagerly
than watchmen wait for the morning.**

Psalms 130: 5-6

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.**



Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.

Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

Hymns Ancient and Modern, Hymn 39

Text: Charles E. Oakley (1832-1865)

Music: 'Little Cornard', Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

CALL TO PRAYER

please remain standing

PRAYERS OF APPROACH
AND CONFESSION

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

please be seated

COLLECT FOR THE
THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

God of power and mercy,
you call us once again
to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes
he may find us watching and waiting
in awe and wonder for him;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you
and also with you.

HYMN

473 'Thy kingdom come!'

THE WORD OF GOD

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 35: 1-10

EPISTLE

James 5: 7-10

PSALM 146

1 O happy is that man and blest,
whom Jacob's God doth aid;
whose hope upon the Lord doth rest,
and on his God is stayed:

Tune at Hymn 36

2 Who made the earth and heavens
who made the swelling deep, [high,
and all that is within the same;
who truth doth ever keep:

4 The Lord doth give the blind their
the bowèd down doth raise: [sight,
the Lord doth dearly love all those
that walk in upright ways.

3 Who righteous judgment executes
for those oppressed that be,
who to the hungry giveth food;
God sets the pris'ners free.

5 The Lord shall reign for evermore:
thy God, O Zion, he
reigns to generations.
Praise to the Lord give ye.

6 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, and is,
and shall be evermore. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

St Matthew 11: 2-11

ALLELUIA

the music can be found at Hymn 751

THE SERMON

The Revd Suzie Stark

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

CAROL

This is the truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from your door,
but hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
is that God did man create;
the next thing which to you I'll tell
woman was made with man to dwell.

And we were heirs to endless woes,
'till God the Lord did interpose;
and so a promise soon did run
that he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year
our blest Redeemer did appear;
he here did live, and here did preach,
and may thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
to show us how we must be saved;
and if you want to know the way,
be pleased to hear what he did say.

Text and Music: English traditional carol,
arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1972-1958)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

the text can be found at Hymn 628

HYMN

283 The voice of God goes out to all the world

Tune at Hymn 96

PRAYERS OF
INTERCESSION

One of the following responses may be used:
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**
Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The OFFERING is collected, and received during the singing of:

DOXOLOGY

**To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, three in one,
praise, honour, might and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.**

Hymn 812

SURSUM CORDA

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.

PRAYERS OF
THANKSGIVING and
THE LORD'S PRAYER

the text can be found at Hymn 652, second form (b)

DISMISSAL HYMN

290 The race that long in darkness pined Paraphrase 19

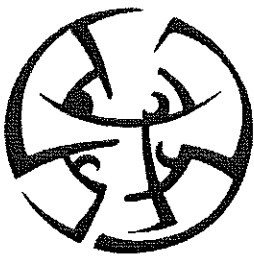
DISMISSAL and BLESSING

Threefold Amen

ORGAN RECESSIONAL

Pastorale

Philip Hayes (1738-1797)



The Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Edinburgh

14th December 2025

Weekly Intimations

Prayerful Practice

As we celebrate the Gift Service today, we hold in our prayers all those children, like Christ, born with little, and reliant on the kindness and generosity of distant strangers. We pray also for the Wester Hailes Early Learning Centre and all the work that it does through the year.

Service of Holy Communion in Anam Chara today after Sunday Worship

There will be a short service of Holy Communion held in the Chapel of the Anam Chara immediately following the service today. All are welcome to join.

Readers Needed

If you would like to read a lesson at the Joint Christmas Carol Service held at Greyfriars on Christmas Eve at 5pm, please contact Christine at sessionclerk@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk

Interested in being more involved?

We are looking for people who want to become more involved with our Sunday Worship. If you are interested in being involved with intercessory prayer, or in assisting our Duty Elders as a Sunday Welcomer, please contact Christine at sessionclerk@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk. These are roles integral to the welcoming and prayerful atmosphere of St Cuthbert's.

Thursday 18th December, 12.30pm: Community Carol Service, followed by Congregational Lunch

On Thursday 18th December the fellowship lunch will be in the Lammermuir Hall, after the Community Carol Service, finishing around 1430. The lunch of homemade soup, sandwiches and of course cake, will be an opportunity to share festive cheer. Access will be possible, so assure taxis they can come in through the Kings Stables road, despite the Christmas market. Please let Kirsten know if you can make it to the Christmas lunch.

Sunday 21st December, 7pm: Joint Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we will be holding our annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols jointly with Greyfriars Kirk. There will be mince pies and mulled wine available afterwards. This is an excellent opportunity to support our Director of Music and his choir who compliment our weekly worship and to show our thanks and appreciation.

Wednesday 24th December, 12noon: Carols round the Tree

Please join us for our cosy service of Carols round the Tree. This is suitable for children and families and is always a lovely social service.

Wednesday 24th December, 11.30pm: Shared Service of Midnight Mass with St John's Episcopal Church

There will be no Watchnight service at St Cuthbert's, as we are sharing in worship with our Ecumenical Partners at St Johns. All are welcome to come along for the service of Midnight Mass.

Thursday 25th December, 10.30am at Greyfriars Kirk: Joint Christmas Morning Service

Please note there will be no service at St Cuthbert's on Christmas morning, as we will be sharing our Christmas Day Worship with our good friends at Greyfriars Kirk.

Join Greyfriars for Advent Study

Locum Minister Rev. Calum Macdougall will be running an Advent Study starting 30 November, running for four Sundays until Sunday 21 December. The sessions will start at 6pm, last for one hour, and will take place online via zoom. The chosen book is "Waiting For The Light" by William Delia, which is available from Amazon on Kindle or as a paperback. Everyone who is interested is very warmly invited to take part in the Advent Study using the zoom link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86949388553?pwd=96Mw881riFicJFaEFmTtl7Skalya8.1>

Prayer Circle

Prayer requests should be made to **Irene Gill** on **226 2727**. For longer term prayer, please add names to the purple book in the vestibule. If you could be part of the Prayer Circle and spend time praying for others, please contact Irene.

Tuesday Coffee Morning, 10.30am – noon

Pop along for a coffee and a chat in the Lindisfarne Room