



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 Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 7 December 2025

Welcome to worship.

Today is the **Second 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.

This morning, we welcome the **Revd Angus Mathieson** to lead our worship.

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.

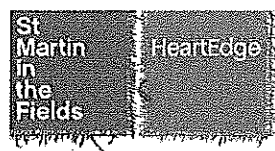


The Church of Scotland

www.stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk



GREYFRIARS
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Scottish Charity Number SC010592

APPROACH TO GOD

LIGHTING OF THE
SECOND 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

The Lord God sent word to the people
time and again through his messengers,
for he took pity on his people and on his dwelling-place.

2 Chronicles 36: 15

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

475 Christ is coming! let creation

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
SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

**Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient
to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world,
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive, and reign with the Father,
in the unity of 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 **334 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry**

THE WORD OF GOD

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 11: 1-10

EPISTLE Romans 15: 4-13

PSALM 72 **1 O Lord, thy judgments give the king,** Tune at Hymn 48
 his son thy righteousness.
 With right he shall thy people judge,
 thy poor with uprightness.

2 The people's poor ones he shall judge, **4 Now blessed be the Lord our God,**
 the needy's children save; **the God of Israel,**
 and those shall he in pieces break **for he alone doth wondrous works,**
 who them oppressèd have. **in glory that excel.**

3 The just shall flourish in his days, **5 And blessed be his glorious name**
 and prosper in his reign: **to all eternity:**
 he shall, while doth the moon endure, **the whole earth let his glory fill.**
 abundant peace maintain. **Amen, so let it be.**

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 Scottish Psalter, 1929, Psalm 72: 1-2, 4, 7, 18-19

THE GOSPEL St Matthew 3: 1-12

ALLELUIA *the music can be found at Hymn 751*

THE SERMON The Revd Angus Mathieson

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

CAROL

Never weather-beaten sail
more willing bent to shore.
Never tired pilgrim's limbs
affected slumber more,
than my wearied sprite now longs
to fly out of my troubled breast:
O come quickly, sweetest Lord,
and take my soul to rest.

Ever blooming are the joys
of Heaven's high Paradise.
Cold age deafs not there our ears
nor vapour dims our eyes:
Glory there the sun outshines
whose beams the blessed only see:
O come quickly, glorious Lord,
and raise my sprite to thee!

Text and Music: Thomas Campion (1567-1620)
arranged by Alan Bullard (b.1947)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

the text can be found at Hymn 628

HYMN

478 Behold the amazing gift of love

Paraphrase 63

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

291 When out of poverty is born

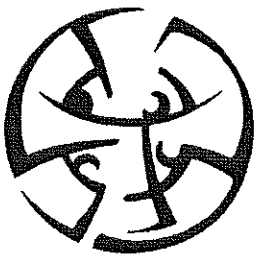
DISMISSAL and BLESSING

Dresden Amen

ORGAN RECESSIONAL

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau (1663-1712)



The Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Edinburgh

7th December 2025

Weekly Intimations

Prayerful Practice

During the hectic Festive Season let us remember and pray for all those involved in Hospitality and the night-time economy and especially; bar staff, waiting staff, door staff, taxi marshals, the emergency services, Street Assist and Edinburgh Street Pastors.

Tuesday 9th December, 7pm: Kirk Session Meeting

Just a reminder that the Kirk Session meet on Tuesday 9th of December at 7pm in the Lindisfarne Room.

Sunday 14th December, 10.30am: Christmas Gift Service

This year's Christmas Gift Service will be held on Sunday 14th December at 10.30am. The gifts will be going to the Wester Hailes Early Learning Centre. More Details later.

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 home made 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.

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.

Tuesday Coffee Morning, 10.30am – noon

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

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>

Bible Fellowship Group

Bible Fellowship Group meet on Thursday nights via Zoom from 7.30pm. All are invited to participate or simply listen in. Our discussions for November are on the Book of Malachi; not well known scripture for many of us. All are welcome to this time of fellowship and discussion. Zoom details from martin.pearce2109@outlook.com

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.

Interested in Intercessory Prayer?

If you are interested in being involved with our Intercessory Prayer team, either writing or reading prewritten intercessions for the Sunday Service, or even both, then please get in touch with Christine at sessionclerk@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk

Sunday 30th November – First Sunday of Advent

10.30am Joint Service of Holy Communion at Greyfriars Kirk

Tuesday 2nd December

12.00noon Service of Holy Communion in the WM Chapel

Wednesday 3rd December

12.30pm soul space

Sunday 7th December – Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am Service of Holy Communion in the WM Chapel

10.30am Sunday Worship

Sunday 14th December – Third Sunday of Advent

10.30am Gift Service, followed by Holy Communion in
the Anam Chara Chapel

Thursday 18th December

12.30pm Community Carol Service,
followed by Congregational Lunch

Sunday 21st December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.30am Sunday Worship

7.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols – Joint Service
with Greyfriars Kirk

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

12noon Carols Round the Tree

11.30pm Shared Service of Midnight Mass at St John's

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.30am Joint Communion Service at Greyfriars Kirk

Please note, this is a Joint Service, and there is no service at St Cs

Sunday 28th December

10.30am Joint Communion Service at St Cuthbert's