



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 before Advent

Sunday 16 November 2025

A warm welcome to worship.

Today is the **Second Sunday before Advent**. The period between All Saints' Day and the First Sunday of Advent is known as 'Kingdom-tide', a time of celebration and reflection on the reign of Christ in earth and heaven. The liturgical colour for this period is **red**.

This morning, we welcome the **Revd Dr Martin Scott** 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 be found in this Order of Service. The **Alleluia**, the **Creed** and the **Lord's Prayer** can be found in the hymnbook at the numbers indicated.

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.

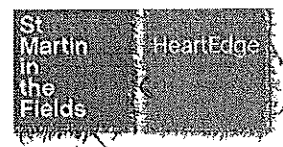


The Church of Scotland

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APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT

Isaiah the prophet has written of old
how God's new creation shall come.
Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.

God, bring to fruition your will for the earth,
that no one shall hurt or destroy,
when wisdom and justice shall reign in the land
and your people shall go forth in joy.

Church Hymnary, Fourth Edition, Hymn 241: 1, 4

Text: Joy F. Patterson (b.1931), altered

Music: 'Judas and Mary', Sydney Bertram Carter (1915-2004)

OPENING SENTENCE

We should obey our orders without fault or failure
until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ
which God will bring about in his own good time.

1 Timothy 6: 14-15

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

202 Stand up and bless the Lord

CALL TO PRAYER

please remain standing

PRAYERS OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

God, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
God, have mercy.

please be seated

ABSOLUTION

COLLECT OF THE DAY

**Almighty God,
you sent your Son Jesus Christ
to be the light of the world.
Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us,
and bring us to eternal light and joy;
through the power of the same Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of God be always with you
and also with you.

HYMN

578 Christ, whose glory fills the skies

THE WORD OF GOD

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 65: 17-25

EPISTLE

2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

CANTICLE

Isaiah 12: 2-6

**Surely it is God who saves me;
I shall trust and have no fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me
and his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water
from salvation's healing spring;
in the day of your deliverance
thank the Lord, his mercies sing.**

Tune at Hymn 217

**Make God's deeds known to the peoples;
tell out his exalted name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things;
all his works God's might proclaim.
Zion, lift you voice in singing;
for with you has come to dwell,
in your very midst the great and
Holy One of Israel.**

Isaiah 12: 2-6, Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b.1944)

THE GOSPEL

St Matthew 25: 1-13

ALLELUIA

the music can be found at **Hymn 751**

SERMON

"Waiting, Waking, Watching"

The Revd Dr Martin Scott

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

O King, and desire of all nations,
thou cornerstone, who has made both one.
Come and save us, whom thou has made from the clay.
Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Text: Advent Antiphon for 22 December

Music: John Stainer (1840-1901)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

the text can be found at Hymn 628

HYMN

268 O God of Bethel, by whose hand

Paraphrase 2

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, hear us: **God, graciously hear us.**

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

DOXOLOGY

**Glory to God the Father,
the unbegotten One;
all honour be to Jesus,
his sole-begotten Son;
and to the Holy Spirit -
the perfect Trinity.
Let all the worlds give answer,
'Amen, so let it be'.**

Hymn 814

SURSUM CORDA

**God be with you.
and also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to 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, first form

DISMISSAL HYMN

248 'For my sake and the gospel's, go'

DISMISSAL and BLESSING

Threefold Amen



The Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Edinburgh
16th November 2025

Weekly Intimations

Prayerful Practice

As we look forward to our annual Oasis Quiz and its connections with local businesses we hold in our prayers all those who work in our parish and in the centre of the city.

Thank you to all who came to the Big Breakfast Event

Many thanks to all who came to our Bacon Roll Breakfast in October. We raised £228 for the STV Children's Appeal, and this year, all donations up to £1million will be matched by Kellogg's.

Wednesday 19th November, 7pm: Annual OASIS Quiz in aid of Fresh Start

In November, we host our annual OASIS Quiz to raise money for Fresh Start. Teams are limited to 5 members, with a suggested donation of £10 per team. There will be a simple soup supper served first. BYOB. Please contact the office at office@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk to register your teams.

EARLY NOTICE 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.

Tuesday Coffee Morning, 10.30am – noon

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

Saturday Coffee Morning Dates and Times

Saturday 29th November – 11am-2pm

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

FreshStart - FESTIVE FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

FreshStart are asking for donations of the following items, which will be turned into food hampers for those moving on from homelessness this Christmas: Mince Pies, Christmas Pudding or Cake, Fudge or Candy Canes, Chocolates, Biscuits, Oatcakes, Crackers, Crisps, Nuts or Other Snacks, Chutney or Jam, Non-Alcoholic Fizzy Drinks, Hot Drinks, Christmas Crackers.

Please note that unfortunately, we're unable to take any perishable items due to storage limitations. We're also not able to accept any items that contain alcohol. All donations received by **Tuesday 25th November** will be delivered to FreshStart in time to be made into Christmas Hampers.

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.

Sundays 2nd, 16th, and 23rd November, 12.45pm-3.15pm: Carbon Literacy Course

All are invited to join a Carbon Literacy Course at Augustine United Church on George VI Bridge. This will cover the science behind climate change, climate Justice, what the Scottish Government and others are doing to tackle it, and what we as individuals and as part of groups can do. This is a free course, and all are welcome.

Toppings *An Evening with...* events Through November

Monday 17th November, 7pm: Lee & Andrew Child, *Exit Strategy*

Thursday 20th November, 6.30pm: Jay Christoff, *Empire of the Dawn*