



# 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*

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## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 21 December 2025

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### Welcome to worship.

Today is the **Fourth 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.

**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**, the **Magnificat** 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.**

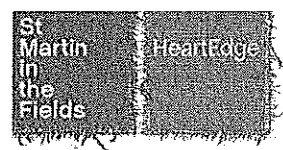


The Church of Scotland

[www.stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk](http://www.stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk)



GREYFRIARS  
*an inspiring community*



Scottish Charity Number SC010592

## APPROACH TO GOD

LIGHTING OF THE  
FOURTH 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 SENTENCES

'A virgin will conceive and bear a son,  
and he shall be called Emmanuel',  
**a name which means 'God is with us'.**

St Matthew 1: 23

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**315 Once in Royal David's City**

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  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

**Heavenly Father,  
you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace  
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour.  
Fill us with your grace, that in all things  
we may embrace your will,  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who live 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                              316 Love came down at Christmas

## THE WORD OF GOD

OLD TESTAMENT              Isaiah 7: 10-16

EPISTLE                        Romans 1: 1-7

PSALM 80                      1 Hear, O Israel's Shepherd, hear us;              Tune at Hymn 139  
Joseph like a flock you lead.  
you who are enthroned in glory,  
shine upon us in our need.

2 Shine on Benjamin, Manasseh,  
and for Ephraim rouse your might!  
Turn us once again towards you;  
come and save us, give us light!

4 You have fed us bread of sorrow;  
tears in plenty we must shed.  
We are now before our neighbours  
humbled and discredited.

3 O Lord God, the Lord Almighty,  
how long will your anger smoke,  
making void your people's prayers,  
so that all your enemies mock?

5 Look on us, O God Almighty;  
let us see your glory bright.  
Turn us once again towards you;  
come and save us, give us light!

6 Glory be to God the Father;  
glory be to God, the Son;  
glory be to God, the Spirit;  
while eternal ages run. Amen.

'Sing Psalms', The Free Church of Scotland, 2003,  
Psalm 80: 1-7

THE GOSPEL                      St Matthew 1: 18-25

ALLELUIA                        *the music can be found at Hymn 751*

THE SERMON                      The Revd Suzie Stark

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

### ANTHEM

One day an angel here on this earth  
spoke of God's presence coming to birth.  
Mary was listening; humbly her heart  
sang at the Word God chose to impart.

Mary gave birth in Bethlehem's cave,  
blessed by the child God chose her to have.  
Love was the reason God had become  
close to his mother, far from her home.

Out in the fields a heavenly throng  
broke through the dark with resonant song.  
Shepherds, who saw God's glory by night,  
sped on their way to worship the Light.

Jesus, your Spirit, shining with care,  
speaks to the world you treasure and share.  
Come with the human touch of your birth;  
find in our hearts your home on this earth.

Text and Music: Alison M. Robertson

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

*the text can be found at Hymn 628*

### THE MAGNIFICAT

**286 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!**

*sung by all*

### 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

**Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,  
and unwearied praises be,  
honour, glory and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore.**

Hymn 319: 6

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

**306 O come, all ye faithful** (omit verse 4)

DISMISSAL and BLESSING

Threefold Amen

Music: Danish

ORGAN RECESSIONAL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)



The Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Edinburgh  
21st December 2025

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### Weekly Intimations

#### Prayerful Practice

We cry out for peace on earth and an end to the loss of innocent lives. We hold in our prayers all those who have lost loved ones through violent acts of terrorism. Especially this week we pray with a spirit of compassion and grace for the Jewish community in Sydney.

#### Today, 7pm: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

This evening, please join us for our service of Nine Lessons and Carols. We will be holding this 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### Bottle Tops

Please note that we are no longer collecting bottle tops. Since the change in plastics, these can now be recycled with your milk bottle. Many thanks.

## **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.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:sessionclerk@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk). These are roles integral to the welcoming and prayerful atmosphere of St Cuthbert's.

## **Tuesday Coffee Morning, 10.30am – noon**

Pop along for a coffee and a chat in the Lindisfarne Room. The coffee morning will not be held on 30<sup>th</sup> December, but will recommence in the new year

