

St. Columba's by the Castle

Scottish Episcopal Church

In Ecumenical Partnership with

Augustine United Church and Greyfriars Kirk

Sunday, 16th December, Holy Eucharist at 10am

Advent 3

Revd Bob Gould, *Presiding*

Revd David Paton-Williams, *Preaching*

Iain Thompson, *Keyboard*



Welcome

Whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey in faith, you are welcome at St. Columba's. If you are visiting or new to us, we rejoice that you have found your way here this morning.

We believe that God affirms us all, regardless of our age, gender, sexual orientation, background or ethnicity and we welcome everyone who wishes to worship and share Communion with us.

People of all ages are welcome in our worship. Early in the service, the children go to the Upper Room for their activities, and return in time to share Communion.

Please join us for coffee, rolls and fellowship after the service. All are invited!

A loop system is available, using the "T" setting on a hearing aid.



**For a large print version of
this service and hymn book, please
ask a welcomer.**

After the bell rings, as you are able, please stand as the cross and gospel book are carried to the front.

Greeting:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Words of Welcome and Introduction

Opening hymn: Hills of the north rejoice, Tune: Little Cornard (CH4 687)

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
The God whom you have longed to know
In Christ draws near and calls you now

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

Charles E. Oakley | Editors of English Praise
© English Hymnal Company (Oxford University Press) (Admin. by Oxford University Press)
CCLI Licence No. 1082411

We light the third Advent Candle

Refrain: The holly and the ivy
are dancing in a ring,
round the berry-bright red candles
and the white and shining King

And three for John the Baptist,
who calls on us to sing:
“O, prepare the way for Jesus Christ.
He is coming - Christ the King”

Refrain

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.

Kyrie (sung):

Cantor: Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

Cantor: Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ have mercy.**

Cantor: Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

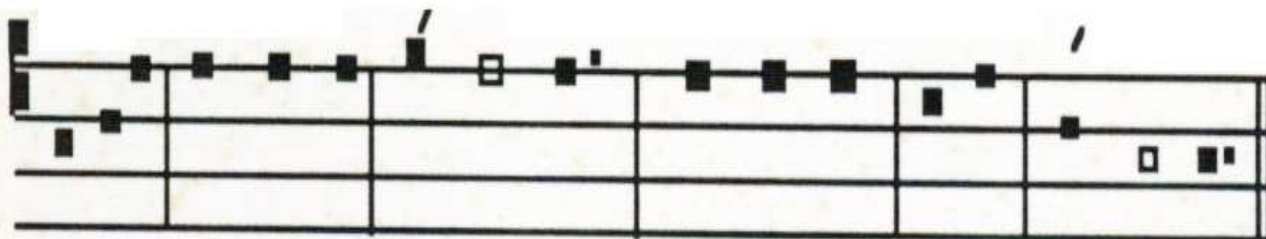
Collect of the Day:

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 waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First reading: Zephaniah 3.14-20 read by Sajjad Zarrinkolah

At the end, after a short silence, the reader may say:

Hear the word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God



tone 8

PSALM 126

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zíon:
then were we like thóse who dream.
 - 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter:
and our tongue with shóuts of joy.
 - 3 Then they said among the nátions:
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
 - 4 The Lord has done great things for us:
and we are glád indeed.
 - 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lórd:
like the watercourses of the Négev.
 - 6 Those who sowed with tears:
will reap with songs of joy.
 - 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed:
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.
- Glory 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. Ámen.

Second reading: Philippians 4.4-7 read by Claire Craig

At the end, after a short silence, the reader may say:

Hear the word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn: 281 – People, look East

Gospel: Luke 3.7-18 read by Penny Grieve

When it is announced:

Glory to Christ our Saviour

At the end: Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord

Sermon: Revd David Paton-Williams (followed by a few moments of silence)

Nicene Creed (please stand, as you are able):

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Intercessions (please sit or kneel) led by Iain Thompson

Confession and Absolution:

God is love and we are God's children. There is no room for fear in love. We love because God loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence

Loving God, 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.
Amen.

Peace (please stand, as you are able):

We meet in Christ's name.

Let us share his peace.

Notices

*Offertory Hymn: **334** – On Jordan's bank, Tune: O Waly, waly (CH4 234)*

During this hymn a collection is taken for the work of the church, although many people give for this by Standing Order. Both represent our response to God's generous love. Items of food are also brought forward as a symbol of our engagement with the needs of others.

Eucharistic Prayer II

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 to be, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined, sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit, we who bear the threefold likeness look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose, who await with eager longing the fulfilment of all things in the coming 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:

Sanctus (Sung):

Cantor: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.**

Cantor: Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

All: **Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Cantor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

All: **Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus you showed us yourself. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, he opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, 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 wine, that, overshadowed by his 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 baptized 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, Columba, 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.

Breaking of the Bread:

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

Lord, unite us in this sign.

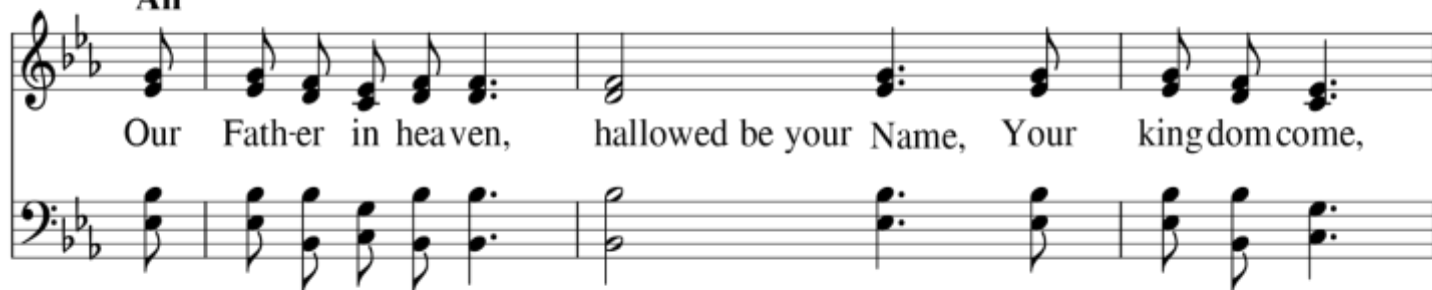
Lord's Prayer (sung to a Russian chant, music overleaf)

Cantor



As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

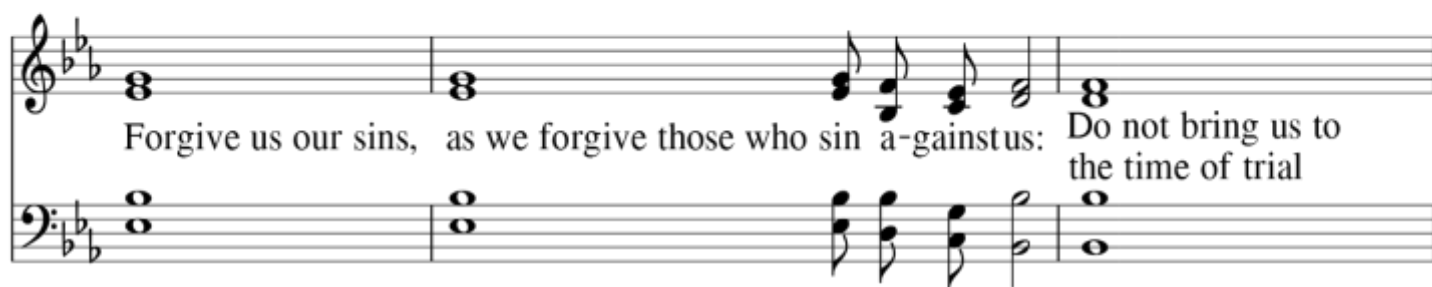
All



Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, Your kingdom come,



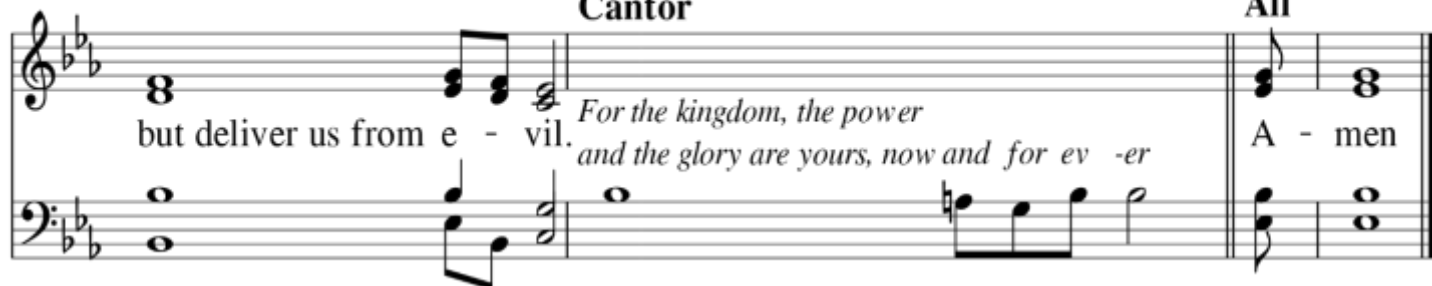
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven Give us today our dai - ly bread:



Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin a- gainst us: Do not bring us to the time of trial

Cantor

All



but deliver us from e - vil. *For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ev - er*

A - men

Communion: Everyone is welcome to receive Communion. If you would prefer to receive a prayer of blessing, please cross your hands over your chest when you come forward. If you need a gluten-free communion wafer please ask when you come to the altar.

Communion song (sung):

Cantor: Jesus, wisdom and mighty Lord, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

All: **Have mercy on us.**

Cantor: Jesus, true branch of Jesse's tree, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

All: **Have mercy on us.**

Cantor: Key of David and Dayspring from on high, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

All: **Have mercy on us.**

Cantor: Desire of nations, our Emmanuel, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

All: **Grant us peace**

Please remain seated for the Post-Communion Hymn.

Post-communion Hymn: 772 – In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful, Tune: Taizé

Please stand when the president returns to the altar.

Give thanks to our gracious God
whose mercy endures for ever

Post-Communion Prayer:

Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing:

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; 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: 519 – Love divine

At the end of the hymn please turn to face the door for the Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Today's Mass Setting is Richard Proulx Missa Emmanuel

Registered Charity number SCO 16571 All hymns © CCL licence: Words 1082411. Music Reproduction, 1082428

Events and Activities THIS WEEK

The **annual Greyfriars Carol Ceilidh** will take place here in the Kirk on **THIS EVENING**, from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm. This evening of family-friendly festive fun, led by the Greyfriars Kirk Band, is open to all. There will be ceilidh dancing and carol singing, and for sustenance a supply of soup and savoury snacks. To buy or reserve tickets – adult £5, family £10 – either phone the Kirk Office at 225-1900, or email administrator@greyfriarskirk.com.

Bible Study Groups

The Monday Study Group. We continue our study of Luke's Gospel.

The Tuesday Study Group is taking a short break and may continue on a fortnightly basis. The Group is especially small, new members would be particular welcome at this time. Please contact Julia Fowler for more information.

Study Group and Eucharist. We are reading "*Evolution, last nail in religion's coffin, or the solution to a Creator's problem?*" by Brian Kilbey. All are welcome on a casual or regular basis. Normally at the Thompsons', 8 St. Catherine's Place.

Midweek Eucharist. Thursdays at 12.30pm in the Upper Room at St. Columba's. Please join us for this informal said Eucharist which is offered each week. Lunch at the Castle Arms afterwards, optional. All are welcome!

Events and Activities FORTHCOMING

Amnesty International's Greetings Card Campaign offers us an opportunity to help people suffering injustices by sending a simple message of greeting and support. Cards and information will be available on Sundays throughout December after the services.

Fiona, Tim and Rowan are moving to Ireland. We are very sorry to see them go, but know it's a great move for them as a family. Everyone is invited to their **Farewell party** on the evening of Saturday December 29th in our Hall. Please bring a bottle and other party contributions. Slainte and Go well!

Group B is on duty in December. Your help in clearing up at the end of coffee time is much appreciated. **Group C** will be on duty in January.

STOP PRESS Christmas cards are still available for your perusal and purchases after the service today. £7 for 20. Original artwork by Cathy Outram and featuring carol-singing in the Grassmarket.

Data Protection: If you have not already completed the GDPR consent forms, please could you return them as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Paper copies are available over coffee in the church.

Quietness. We ask that you observe a spirit of quietness as we gather for worship out of respect for those who wish to pray and the musicians who are playing.

Further notices appear on the Hall notice board including a rolling history of St. Columba's.

Advent and Christmas at St Columba's

You are warmly invited to any or all of the following events.

Please bring friends and relatives too:

Saturday 22nd Dec 6.00pm - 6.30pm Community Carol singing around the Christmas Tree in the Grassmarket. Dress for the weather and bring a torch. Mince pies.

Sunday 23rd Dec 10am Eucharist for Advent 4

Monday 24th Dec - 3pm Christingle and Blessing of the Crib
11.15pm Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25th Dec 10am - Christmas Day All-age Eucharist

(and don't forget Epiphany - 10am Sunday 6th January All-Age Eucharist followed by something sparkling and a Bring and Share lunch.)

Revd. David Paton-Williams, Rector

Tel: 07759 621860 or 0131 228 5215

Email: rector@stcs.org.uk

Church Office: 0131 622 2277 or church.admin@stcs.org.uk

Website: www.stcolumbasbythecastle.org.uk