



First Sunday in  
**Advent**

YEAR C



The Church of Scotland

**WELCOME**



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# The Church of Scotland

## **Advent Sunday. Communion**

*Auditoire de Calvin, December 1 2024*

**Prelude** “O Hail Thou brightest day of days”

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

**Introit CH4 283** *The voice of God goes out to all the world* (choral setting, Michael McCabe)

### **Welcome**

*There are no announcements during the service*

### **Call to worship**

Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

**How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger**

**who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”**

**CH4 273** *O come, o come, Emmanuel.* Solo, verse 1: Nicola Hollyman. Verses 3, 5, all.

### **Opening prayer**

#### **Collect**

**Eternal God, through long generations you prepared the way for the coming of your Son, and through your Spirit you still cast light on our paths.**

**Renew our faith and deepen our hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as king of kings and lord of lords, to whom be glory forever. Amen.**

**CH4 648** *Lord, have mercy*

#### **First Advent candle**

Hope is a light given by God at the beginning of creation.

**Hope is the gift of God.**

Hope is a light given by God in the teaching of the prophets.

**Hope is the gift of God revealed in the life of Christ.**

Hope is a light given by God: the Son of God, the son of Mary.

*(The first Advent candle is lit)*

**Source of light, shine in our lives and fill your world with your renewing hope.**

**CH4 284** *Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets* (verse 1)



### **NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

*Genesis 3.8–15, 17–19* Mark Jeffrey

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

**Choir:** *Adam lay y-bounden*

*Genesis 22.15–18* Jane McKenzie

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

**CH4 303** *It came upon the midnight clear* (verses 1 to 3)

*Isaiah 9.2, 6–7* Arthur Askew

The prophet foretells the coming of the saviour.

*Isaiah 11.1–4a, 6–9* Antoinette Djamen

The prophet foreshows the peace that Christ will bring.

**Choir:** *Good people all, this Christmas time.*  
*Wexford Carol.* Solo, verse 1: Vivien Liu

*Luke 1.26–35, 38* Alex Craeye

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed virgin Mary.

**CH4 287** *No wind at the window*

*Luke 2.1–7* Christine Buhler

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

**CH4 301** *Hark! the herald-angels sing*

*Luke 2.8–16* Jürg Strittmatter

The shepherds go to the manger.

**CH4 315** *Once in royal David's city*  
(verse 1: Sunday school. Verses 2, 3, all)

**Choir:** *The Shepherds' Farewell.*  
Hector Berlioz ((1803–1869)

*Matthew 2.1–12* Jean Murray  
The wise men follow the star to Jesus.

**CH4 295** *Who would think that what was  
needed* (verses 1, 2)

*John 1.1–14* Páraic Réamonn  
John unfolds the great mystery of the  
incarnation.

**CH4 331** *Unto us a boy is born!*

**Choir:** *Cantique de Jean Racine*  
Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)

### **Offering**

Offering music “*Sleepers Awake*”  
Johann Sebastian Bach

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow* (CH4  
807)

### **Prayer of dedication**

## **COMMUNION**

**Communion hymn** *Hark! What a sound, and  
too divine for hearing.* Verses 1, 2, 4.

*Hark, what a sound, and too divine for hearing,  
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!  
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?  
Is it the music of his people's prayer?*

*Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices  
shout to the saints and to the deaf are dumb;  
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,  
glad in his coming who hath sworn, ‘I come’.*

*Yea, through life, death, through sorrow and  
through sinning,  
he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:  
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,  
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.*

Frederick WH Myers, 1843–1901  
Tune: CH4 246, *Highwood*

## **The Lord's Supper**

### **Invitation**

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.**

### **Prayer of thanksgiving**

**CH4 651** *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

### **Prayer of thanksgiving + The Lord's Prayer**

**CH4 653** *Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world*

**Choir** *O taste and see, how gracious the Lord is*  
Ralph Vaughan-Williams (1872–1958)

Solo: Nicola Hollyman

### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **Closing prayer**

**CH4 477** *Lo, he comes with clouds descending* (verses 1, 3, 4)

### **Benediction and Threefold Amen**

**Postlude** *Noel VI*

Louis Claude Daquin (1694–1772)

*Warm thanks to our readers, our soloists, and the whole choir: our “regulars”; those from our congregation who, in some cases for the first time, stepped up to support them; and especially those from furth of the congregation who swelled their ranks.*

*Special thanks to Peter Billington for patient conducting and Rebecca Dirks MacDonald for playing and accompanying.*

*Now for the mince pies!*

*Welcoming elder:* Alex Craeye

*Ushers:* Arthur Griffith, Hazel Griffith

*Organist:* Rebecca Dirks MacDonald

*Choir:* Peter Billington

## **Notices**

### **Monday December 2, 19h30–20h30**

International Presbytery. Zoom Bible study. Delve into the Christmas story – and what happened next – with Matthew and Luke. Email David Lloyd at [dlloyd@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:dlloyd@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### **Tuesday December 24**

Christmas Eve service, 23h15, on Zoom only

### **Wednesday December 25**

Christmas Day service, 11h

*Join us afterwards in the Salle Théodore de Bèze for mince pies, refreshments, and a mini-sale!*



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