



Fourth Sunday in  
**Advent**

YEAR A



The Church of Scotland

**WELCOME**



Interim Moderator: Rev Graham Austin  
[GAustin@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:GAustin@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Clerks: Christine Buhler, Jane Broere  
[churchofscotlandgeneva@gmail.com](mailto:churchofscotlandgeneva@gmail.com)

Sunday school: Cornis Van der Lugt  
[cofsgSundaySchool@gmail.com](mailto:cofsgSundaySchool@gmail.com)



# The Church of Scotland

*Auditoire de Calvin, December 21 2025*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**We stand to sing. After the doxology, we remain standing for the prayer of dedication. After the final hymn, we remain standing for the benediction and threefold Amen.**

**Prelude** *Andante* from Sonata No 5

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

**Introit** *Comfort, comfort now my people*  
(CH4 274)

**Welcome**

**Call to worship**

Shower, O heavens, from above,  
and let the skies rain down righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation may spring up.

**Look, the young woman is with child  
and shall bear a son,  
and shall name him Immanuel.**

**CH4 289** *Lift up your heads, eternal gates*

**Collect**

Who are we, Lord God,  
that you should come to us?  
Yet you have visited your people  
and redeemed us in your Son.

**As we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of  
your word,  
and move us by your Spirit to bless your  
wonderful works.**

**Through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near,  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

**Fourth Advent candle**

Joy is the celebration, given by God through the  
light of the world.

**Joy is the celebration, given by God at the  
birth of the Christ child.**

Joy is the celebration when the angels sang  
“Glory to God in the highest.”

**Let us dance and sing and shout for joy.**

**Christ is coming again.**

(The candle of joy is lit)

**Source of light, shine in our lives and in your  
world with your life-giving joy.**

## **CH4 284 Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets** (verses 1–4)

### **Baptism of Chloe Ailin Genevieve**

Baptismal blessing

*The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious unto you:  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.* (CH4 796)

### **CH4 631** *A little child the Saviour came*

#### **Old Testament** *Isaiah 7:10–16*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

#### **Psalms** 80:1–7, 17–19

Tune: *O little town of Bethlehem* (CH4 304)

1 O Shepherd, hear and lead Your flock,  
As lambs, we crave Your care;  
What strength on earth approaches Yours,  
What mercies can compare?

*Chorus: Restore to us a saving faith,  
The radiance of Your face  
To lighten and reveal the gift  
Of Your redeeming grace.*

2 Our selfish prayers deserve Your wrath,  
Our pride, a sudden burst;  
We have but stones to serve as bread,  
And tears to quell our thirst.

*Chorus: Restore to us a saving faith*

3 Your lineage, like a vine, once spread  
And flourished in the land;  
But now the vineyard fails, the fruit  
Lies withered in the sand.

*Chorus: Restore to us a saving faith*

Michael Morgan (b. 1948)

## **Gospel** *Matthew 1:18–25*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

*“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”* which means, “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

**Sermon** *If God is with us...*

**CH4 290** *The race that long in darkness pined*

## **Offering**

*Praise God, the Source of life and birth;  
praise God, the Word, who came to earth;  
praise God the Spirit, holy flame:  
all glory, honour to God's name.*

Ruth C Duck (b. 1947). CH4 809

## **Prayer of dedication**

**Prayers for the world and its people**

**The Lord's prayer**

**CH4 291** *When out of poverty is born*

**Benediction and Threefold Amen**

**Postlude** *Noel*

Louis–Claude Daquin (1674–1772)



*Worship leader* Rev Páraic Réamonn  
*Baptism* Rev Laurence Twaddle  
*Welcoming elder* Makoto Ikeda  
*Ushers* Arthur Griffith, Pamela King  
*Readers* Makoto Ikeda, Nicola Hollyman  
*Organ* Rebecca Dirks MacDonald  
*Flute* Judith Peacock  
*Soloist* Peter Jeffes  
*Choir* Páraic Réamonn  
*Coffee & tea* Beryl Hobson, Maria Oliveira

*Join us in the Salle Théodore de Bèze for refreshments after the service!*

**December 22, 16h** Funeral of Claire de Reynier, Chapelle de l'Ange de la Consolation, Av. du Cimetière 1, 1213 Petit-Lancy

**December 24, from 23h** Christmas Eve service on Zoom, led by Rev Christine Colliar. Service starts at 23h30

**December 25, 11h** Christmas Day service in the Auditoire, led by Rev Páraic Réamonn, with a Christmas apéro afterwards

**December 28, 11h** Service led by Rev Daniel Gnaegi (Lausanne)



*Bank Account:* Church of Scotland, GE  
*Account No.* 279-C7114389.0  
*IBAN:* CH13 0027 9279 C711 4389 0



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
GENEVA



Website: [churchofscotlandgeneva.ch](https://churchofscotlandgeneva.ch)