

YEAR B

First Sunday in
Advent

The Church of Scotland

WELCOME



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The Church of Scotland

Auditoire de Calvin, November 29 2026
Advent Sunday

Prelude *In Dulci Jubilo*
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Introit *Lift up your heads, eternal gates*
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*
(Soprano solo, verse 1)

Opening prayer

Collect (All)
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.

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.

GWA 90 *We are a people of hope* (verse 1)
We are a people of hope;
we are a people of hope;
Lighting a candle, we wait for the dawn;
we are a people of hope.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Genesis 3.8–15, 17–19
God tells Adam he has lost the life of paradise and his seed will bruise the serpent's head

CH4 303 *It came upon the midnight clear*

Genesis 18:11-14, 17-19
God promises Abraham that in his seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed

Choir *Now the heavens start to whisper*

1. Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.
2. Heavy clouds that block the moon light
now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendour,
gleams within a world grown di m.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.
3. Christ, eternal Sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom)s seed,
Come to bless with fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger,
in the outcast, hid from view;
child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
The prophet foretells the coming of the saviour

Isaiah 11.1–4a, 6–9
The prophet foreshows the peace that Christ will bring

CH4 274 *Comfort, comfort now my people*

Luke 1.26–35, 38a
The angel Gabriel salutes the young girl Mary

CH4 285 *The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

Luke 2:1-7
Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

CH4 310 *See him lying on a bed of straw* (Calypso carol)

Luke 2:8-16
The shepherds go to the manger.

CH4 309 *Still the night, holy the night* (verse 1: Sunday school)

Matthew 2.1–12
The wise men follow the star to Jesus

CH4 328 *Wise men, they came to look for wisdom*

John 1.1–14
John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation

Choir *Hark! What a sound, and too divine for hearing* (*Highwood* CH4 246)
Frederick William Henry Myers (1843–1901)

1. 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?

2. 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.
3. This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?
This shall he do, and can we still despair?
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,
cast at his feet the burden of our care.
4. 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.

Offering

Offering music *Noël Nouvelet.* William Southcomb Lloyd Webber (1914–1982)

Doxology (CH4 809, tune 807)
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. Amen.

Prayer of dedication

The Peace

Choir *Minuit, chrétiens/O holy night*

Closing prayer

The Lord's Prayer

CH4 477 *Lo, he comes with clouds descending*

Blessing and threefold Amen

Choir *Lift up your heads, eternal gates*

Postlude *Noël I*
Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)

Worship leader Rev Alex Evans
Welcoming elder Makoto Ikeda
Usher Pamela King
Organ Rebecca Dirks MacDonald
Choir Peter Jeffes
Coffee Nan Braunschweiger, Joan Reilly

Wednesday worship on Zoom 12h–13h. Contact Christine Colliar for the link *ccolliar@churchofscotland.org.uk*
November 29 11h service followed by mince pies, mulled wine and a Christmas mini sale
Bethlehem and the Nativity story The international presbytery invites you to join an Advent series of 4 online studies. Contact *ccolliar@churchofscotland.org.uk*
Emmanuel in a Broken World Palestinian Christians reflect on the four Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love and explore how to respond biblically to the reality in the Holy Land. Sign up: *https://bit.ly/4jFKebF*
December 24, 22h Christmas Eve on Zoom
December 25, 11h Christmas Day service



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The Church of Scotland Geneva is linked with the Scots Kirk Lausanne