



The Parish Church of St Cuthbert

The Revd Dr Peter Sutton AKC BD MTh DMin *Minister*

Mr Graham Maclagan BMus PGDE CertTh *Director of Music*

Mr Graeme Brownlee BA LLCM ALCM *Organist*

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Service of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 22 December 2024

A warm 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 in glory. The appropriate colour for this season of penitential preparation is **purple**.

This evening's service takes the traditional form of the **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**. The first service of this form was held on Christmas Eve 1880.

As we continue to develop new friendships and partnership with **Greyfriars Kirk**, in anticipation of our union, this evening's service is sung by the joint choirs of St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars.

The Lessons are read from the King James Version of the Bible.

The Carols are sung by the choir. **The Hymns** are sung by all and sung standing.

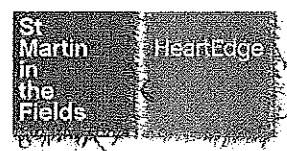
Congregational responses are printed in **bold**. The congregation is encouraged to join in the saying of 'Amen' at the end of prayers.

Please join us for seasonal refreshments after the service.

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



Scottish Charity Number SC010592

THE SERVICE OF THE FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Service of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is most often associated with King's College, Cambridge, where it has become an annual and much-loved feature since it was first held there on Christmas Eve 1918.

That service had been planned by Eric Milner-White, who, at the age of thirty-four, had just been appointed Dean of King's after experience as an army chaplain. The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist at King's from 1876 until 1929.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service always began (as will ours here at St Cuthbert's this evening) with the hymn *Once in royal David's city*. In fact, the original service was adapted from an Order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve 1880. But the original idea had come to Benson from G.H.S. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh. So this service has a strong historical connection with our city!

Over the years the service of Nine Lessons and Carols has been adopted and adapted in very many places, but wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation or both, the pattern and strength of the service, as Eric Milner-White himself pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and the words of the Bible'. The centre of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' and who consent to follow where the story leads.

The Director of Music conducts the choir.

Before the Service the Organist plays the gathering voluntaries.

Silence is then kept before –

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN
a solo voice sings

Once in royal David's city,
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

the choir sing

He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

*the congregation stand
and join with the singing*

**And through all His wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love, and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms He lay;
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as He.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern;
day by day, like us He grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us He knew;
and He feeleth for our sadness,
and He shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see Him,
through His own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above,
and He leads His children on,
to the place where He is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see Him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned,
all in white shall wait around.**

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)
Music: 'Irby', Henry John Gaunlett (1805-1876),
harmonised by Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929),
descant by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

THE BIDDING PRAYER
please be seated

Beloved in Christ, as we anticipate the great festival of Christmas, be it our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, let us pray for needs of the whole world. Let us pray for His Majesty The King,

Her Majesty The Queen, Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay, and all the Royal Family. Let us pray for our Prime Minister and our First Minister, and for the leaders of all the nations, that they may be inspired to work for the establishment of justice, freedom, and peace the world over.

Then, let us pray for the Church Christ came to build; for our congregations of St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars; for our wider congregations encompassing those who gather in, and use our buildings; and let us pray for unity within the Church especially in this our City of Edinburgh, and our Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in Christ's name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but in a greater light with the multitude of saints in heaven, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

May the Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.
Amen.

CAROL

A babe is born in Bethlehem: *Alleluya!*
Great joyance for Jerusalem. *Alleluya!*

The Father's Word on high doth take:
A mortal form for mortals' sake.

He took our flesh, to man akin,
In all things like us, save in sin.

Now, Yule-tide come, sing high, sing low.
Benedicamus Domino. [Let us bless the Lord]

To Holy Trinity give praise,
with *Deo gracias* always. [Thanks be to God]

Traditional German carol,
Text translated by G.R. Woodward (1848-1934)
harmonised by J.H. Schein (1586-1630)

THE FIRST LESSON

read by John Kirk, representing the Choir

Genesis 3: 8-15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. ⁹ And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? ¹⁰ And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. ¹¹ And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? ¹² And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. ¹³ And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. ¹⁴ And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: ¹⁵ and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

CAROL

Of the Father's heart begotten
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain,
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,
frail and feeble, doomed to die,
that the race from dust created
might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful Law had sentenced
in the depths of hell to lie,
evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,
when the Maid the curse retrieved,
brought to birth mankind's salvation,
by the Holy Ghost conceived,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
in her loving arms received,
evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealed
in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

Text: Prudentius (b.348),
translated by Robert Furley Davis (1866-1937)
Melody from *Piae Cantiones*, Theoderici Petri Nylandensis, 1582,
arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

THE SECOND LESSON

read by Ronan, representing Steps to Hope

Genesis 22: 15-18

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

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out
of heaven the second time, ¹⁶ and said, By myself have I
sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this
thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:
¹⁷ that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will
multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the
sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall
possess the gate of his enemies; ¹⁸ and in thy seed shall all
the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast
obeyed my voice.

CAROL

People, look East. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

Music: French carol, harmonised by Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

HYMN

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe:**

**O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell Thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.**

**O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:**

Church Hymnary, Fourth Edition, Hymn 273

Text: 18th century, based on the ancient *Advent Antiphons*,
translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Music: 'Veni Emmanuel', plainsong melody, 15th century France

THE THIRD LESSON

read by Vasyl, representing the Ukrainian Spiders

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

CAROL

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk and a manger full of hay;
enough for him whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Text Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Music Harold Darke (1888-1976)

THE FOURTH LESSON

*read by Hanna Tekliuk, representing St Margaret's
Ukrainian Saturday School*

Micah 5: 2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. ³Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

HYMN

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**

*the choir sings
verse three*

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!**

Text: Philip Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: 'Forest Green', English traditional melody
harmonised by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

THE FIFTH LESSON

read by Anne Bradbury, representing Greyfriars Kirk

St Luke 1: 26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. ²⁹ And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. ³⁰ And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. ³¹ And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. ³² He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: ³³ and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

³⁴ Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? ³⁵ And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶ And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing shall be impossible.

³⁸ And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

CAROL

'Song of Mary'

My Lord and Saviour is my song,
he fills my spirit with delight
to raise me up, his arm is strong,
the lowly precious in his sight.

Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

[My soul magnifies the Lord]

My name shall live from age to age,
and every tongue his servant bless,
for mercy is their heritage
whose hearts the Holy One confess.

The proud beguiled by dreams of power
divided and degraded lie:
he casts them down from throne and tower
and stoops to lift the humble high.

He feeds the hungry at his board
and sends the rich unfilled away,
and mindful of his promised word
has answered Israel's prayer today.

With all the elders of our race,
and those unborn who seek this birth,
I sing the glory of his grace
who brings eternity to earth.

Text: Mary Holtby, after St Luke 1: 46-55

Music: Richard Shephard (1949-2021)

THE SIXTH LESSON

read by Bridget Cameron, representing soul space

St Matthew 1: 18-23

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to

put her away privily. ²⁰ But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. ²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. ²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

CAROL

Once, as I remember, at the time of Yule,
after mid-December, when it bloweth cool,
I o'erheard a Mother was a-singing, 'Sweet Jesu,
La-lullay-lu, La-lullay-lu.'

Near as man was able, on my knee fell I,
in the Bethlem stable where the Babe did lie,
and the Virgin-mother was a-singing, 'Sweet Jesu,
La-lullay-lu, La-lullay-lu.'

Ox and ass around him, courtier-like, did stand:
fair white linen bound him, spun by Mary's hand.
While the Virgin-mother was a-singing, 'Sweet Jesu,
La-lullay-lu, La-lullay-lu.'

Ever among and o'er us angel-quire 'gan sing
antiphons in chorus to the new-born King.
Then the Virgin-mother fell a-singing, 'Sweet Jesu,
La-lullay-lu, La-lullay-lu.'

Text: G.R. Woodward (1848-1934)

Music: Italian carol, arranged by Charles Wood (1866-1926)

THE SEVENTH LESSON

*read by the Revd Sue MacGregor, Associate Minister,
Greyfriars Kirk*

St Luke 2: 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore

afraid. ¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

HYMN

**See! in yonder manger low,
born for us on earth below,
see! the gentle Lamb appears
promised from eternal years.**

Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!

Hail redemption's happy dawn!

Sing through all Jerusalem:

'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

**Lo, within a stable lies
he who built the starry skies,
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim.**

**Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on that lowly mountain steep?**

**'As we watched at dead of night,
Lo! we saw a wondrous light:
angels, singing peace on earth,
told us of the Saviour's birth.'**

**Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!**

Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!

Hail redemption's happy dawn!

Sing through all Jerusalem:

'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

Text: Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

Music: 'Humility (Oxford)', John Goss (1800-1880)

THE EIGHTH LESSON

*read by Martin Pearce, Reader, Church of Scotland,
representing the Bible Study Group*

St Matthew 2: 1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, ² saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. ³ When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. ⁵ And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, ⁶ And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

⁷ Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

⁹ When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. ¹¹ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play,
to call my true love to my dance;

*Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
of her I took fleshly substance
thus was I knit to man's nature
to call my true love to my dance.

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was
so very poor, this was my chance
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass
to call my true love to my dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was;
the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
my Father's voice heard from above,
to call my true love to my dance.

Text: 19th Century traditional English carol
Music: John Gardner (1917-2011)

the congregation stands for

THE NINTH LESSON

read by the Revd Dr Peter Sutton, Minister, St Cuthbert's

St John 1: 1-14

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The same was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
⁷ The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.
⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ⁹ That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³ which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

HYMN

**Adeste, fideles,
laeti, triumphantes,
venite, venite in Bethlehem;
natum videte
regem angelorum:
*venite, adoremus,
venite, adoremus,
venite, adoremus Dominum.***

**God of God,
light of light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created;
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God
In the highest':**

Text: Latin, 18th century,
possibly by John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)
Music: 'Adeste fideles', melody probably by John Francis Wade

THE OFFERING

Our offerings are collected. We stand as our offerings are processed to, and presented at, the Holy Table.

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.

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

THE COLLECT FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE

**O God, who makest us glad
with the yearly remembrance of the birth
of thine only Son, Jesus Christ:
Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold Him,
when He shall come to be our judge;
who liveth and reigneth with Thee
and the Holy Ghost,
one God, world without end. Amen.**

HYMN

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King'!***

**Christ, by highest Heav'n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
late in time, behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!**

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die.
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King'!*

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others
Music: 'Mendelssohn (Bethlehem)' Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
adapted by William Hayman Cummings (1831-1915)

THE CHRISTMAS
BLESSING

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May the Son, Jesus Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

The choir sings the final Amen. Seven-fold, John Stainer (1840-1901)

The congregation remains standing while the minsters and choir depart.

We invite you to join us for our
Christmas Services at St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars

Tuesday 24 December – Christmas Eve

12noon – Carols under the tree, around the piano *at St Cuthbert's*

5.00pm – Christmas Eve Carol Service *at Greyfriars Kirk*

11.30pm – Christmas Watchnight Service *at St Cuthbert's*

Wednesday 25 December – Christmas Day

10.30am – Christmas Day Service *at Greyfriars Kirk*

No service at St Cuthbert's

Sunday 29 December – The First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am – The Sacrament of Holy Communion *at St Cuthbert's*

No service at Greyfriars

Sunday 5 January 2025 – The Epiphany of our Lord

10.30am – Morning Worship *at St Cuthbert's*

10.30am – Morning Worship *at Greyfriars*

