

St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy



Sunday 21st December 2025, Carols and Communion

Welcome to St Peter's Episcopal Church to this Our Annual Carol Service.
Please join us for refreshments in the hall after the service.

Christine Fraser, Rector.

Bob Barrett, Priest

The words in **Bold Type** are said or sung by everyone.

It is The Scottish Episcopal Church's tradition that all who are baptised are warmly invited to share in Holy Communion, to receive bread alone, or to receive bread and drink from the chalice. Intinction is not permitted in this Diocese. All are welcome to receive a blessing at the altar. Gluten free wafers are available; please advise a sidesperson if you require this.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward holding your service booklet.

There is no offertory collection during the service; if you wish to give an offering, please place in the plate at the right-hand side of the door as you enter the church. Many thanks

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Christmas and New Year Services

Wednesday 24 th December	Christmas Eve	11.30pm Sung Eucharist
Thursday 25 th December	Christmas Day	10.00am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 28 th December	Christmas 1	9.15am Eucharist 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Wednesday 31 st December		NO SERVICE
Sunday 4 th January	Epiphany	9.15am Eucharist 10.30am Sung Eucharist

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle;
to you be praise and glory for ever!
Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we who have seen your glory
may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.
Blessed be God for ever.

The candle is lit.

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;
blessed is Mary your mother and ours:
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children who long for your coming. Amen**

Bidding Prayer

We have come together to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save: for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world; for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognize their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace everywhere; for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the bereaved, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

CRIB Blessing

As we meet to anticipate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib which we have prepared in celebration; may all who see it be strengthened in faith, and receive the fullness of life he came to bring. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9. 2, 6-7

CAROL

Long ago, prophets knew

- 1. Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.**

Refrain:

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!***

***When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?***

2. God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human. *[Refrain]*

3. Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected, *[Refrain]*

4. Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry! *[Refrain]*

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

SECOND LESSON

St Luke 1. 26-38

CAROL

O come, O come Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *[Refrain]*

3. O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode. [*Refrain*]
4. O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace. [*Refrain*]

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2.1-7

CAROL

Unto us a boy is born

1. Unto us a boy is born!
The King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of ev'ry nation.
2. Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he the world surpasses.
3. Herod then with fear was filled:
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"
And all the little boys he killed
At Bethl'hem in his fury.
4. Now may Mary's son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.
5. Alpha and Omega he!
Now let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Shall rend the air asunder.

ADDRESS

1. 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 to-night.
2. O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the king,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
3. 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.
4. 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.

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.
2. 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.
3. 'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:
4. The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'
5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:
6. 'All glory be to God on high,
And on the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped,
To that lowly manger-bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

SIXTH LESSON

St John 1 1 – 14

INTERCESSIONS

THE CONFESSION 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

God our Father, 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 We meet in Christ's name.
Let us share his peace.
We share the sign of peace

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

OFFERING Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

CAROL Hark the herald angels sing

1. **Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born 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:
Refrain:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.***
2. **Christ, by highest heaven 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 Emmanuel: [*Refrain*]**

3. 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: [*Refrain*]

PRAYERS OF OFFERING

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made: it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands; it will become the cup of our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER ANTICIPATION

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 your 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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
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 this wine,
that, overshadowed by the Spirit’s 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 baptised 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, 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.**

COMMUNION SONG

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace.**

COMMUNION

At the giving of the bread:
The Body of Christ given for you.

At the giving of the cup:
The Blood of Christ shed for you.

The Communicant replies **Amen.**

CAROL

Silent Night

- 1. Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace**

2. Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born
3. Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

We give thanks to you Lord, for you are gracious.
And your mercy endures for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 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 Godbearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

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**

CAROL O come all ye faithful

1. **O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O Come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

2. **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!**

3. **Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!**

DISMISSAL Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.