

**Barthol Chapel and Tarves Kirks**

**Order of Service Third Sunday in Advent 11 December 2022**

**Joint Worship 10.00am Tarves**

**Finding Time to share the love this Christmas**

**Call to Worship – Lighting of Advent Candle**

Leader: Advent means coming.

**ALL: We are preparing for the full  
coming of God's kingdom:**

Voice 1: The nations shall beat their  
swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more. (Is 2:4)  
The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them. (Is 11:6)  
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing. (Is 35:1-2)



*Merry Christmas*

**ALL: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**Praise: CH4 303 It came upon the midnight clear (omit v2)**

1.It came upon a midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold

Peace on the earth, good will to men  
From heaven's all gracious King

The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing

2.And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way

with painful steps and slow,  
 look now! for glad and golden hours  
 come swiftly on the wing.  
 O rest beside the weary road,  
 and hear the angels sing!

when with the ever-circling years  
 shall come the time foretold  
 when peace shall over all the earth  
 its ancient splendours fling,  
 and the whole world send back the song  
 which now the angels sing.

3. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
 by prophet seen of old,

## **Prayers of Approach**

### **Lord's Prayer**

## **Praise CH4 316 Love came down at Christmas**

1 Love came down at Christmas,  
 Love all lovely, love divine;  
 love was born at Christmas  
 star and angels gave the sign.

love incarnate, love divine;  
 worship we our Jesus  
 what shall be our sacred sign?

2 Worship we the Godhead,

3 Love shall be our token,  
 love be yours and love be mine;  
 love to God and neighbour,  
 love for prayer and gift and sign.

## **The Word of God**

### **Isaiah 35:1-10**

*The desert and the parched land will be glad;*

*the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.*

*Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom;*

*it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.*

*The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,*

*the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;*

*they will see the glory of the Lord,*

*the splendour of our God.*

*3 Strengthen the feeble hands,*

*steady the knees that give way;*

*4 say to those with fearful hearts,*

*'Be strong, do not fear;*

*your God will come,*

*he will come with vengeance;*

*with divine retribution*

*he will come to save you.'*

*5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened*

*and the ears of the deaf unstopped.*

*6 Then will the lame leap like a deer,*

*and the mute tongue shout for joy.*

*Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.*

*7 The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.*

*In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.*

*8 And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that  
Way.*

*The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.*

*9 No lion will be there,  
nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.*

*But only the redeemed will walk there,*

*10 and those the Lord has rescued will return.*

*They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.*

*Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.*

### **St Matthew 11:2-11**

*2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'*

*4 Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy[a] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are*

*raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'*

*7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written:*

*"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."*

*11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

## **Praise 291 When out of poverty is born**

1 When out of poverty is born  
a dream that will not die  
a landless, weary folk find strength  
to stand with heads held high,  
it's then we learn from those who wait  
to greet the promised day:  
'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart  
Be blest: prepare the way!'

2 When people wander far from God,  
forget to share their bread,  
they find their wealth an empty thing,  
their spirits are not fed.  
For only just and tender love

the hungry soul will stay.  
And so God's prophets echo still:  
'Be blest: prepare the way!'  
  
3 When God took flesh and came to earth,  
the world turned upside down,  
and in the strength of women's faith  
the Word of Life was born.  
She knew that God would raise the low,  
it pleased her to obey.  
Rejoice with Mary in the call:  
'Be blest: prepare the way!'

## **Reflection**

## **Praise The Best Present of All**

Crackers and turkeys and pudding and  
cream,  
Toys in the window that I've never seen.

It's somebody's birthday I won't forget,  
As I open the things that I get.  
I'll remember the inn and the stable so  
bare,  
Everyone's out shopping late every night,  
For candles and presents and Christmas  
tree lights  
This is the Christmas that everyone sees,  
But Christmas means more to me.

This is the Christmas that everyone sees,  
But Christmas means more to me.

And Jesus who once lay there.

It's somebody's birthday I won't forget,  
As I open the things that I get.  
I'll remember the inn and the stable so  
bare,  
And Jesus who once lay there.

There's presents to open and new games  
to play.

This is the Christmas that everyone sees,  
But Christmas means more to me.

Christmas morning, the start of the day,

### **Prayers for Others**

#### **Praise CH4 304 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we  
see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the  
silent stars go by:  
yet in your dark streets shining is  
everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are  
met in you tonight.

2. O morning stars, together proclaim the  
holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and  
peace to all the 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

### **Blessing**

#### **Take home Suggestions**

**1. Sharing the Love** - Find something beautiful to give away, from a smile to a material gift. Don't forget to be still for a minute and speak a word of peace to someone.

**2. Reverse Advent Calendar** – take one of our advent calendars and instead of opening a box each day, put in a donation for Aberdeenshire North Foodbank and for those in crisis in our own community into a bag and bring the full bag to Church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day or by arrangement. The Foodbank are particularly in need of the following items:- UHT milk, Tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, cereal, shampoo/shower gel/ deodorant, jars of sauce (curry/pasta), biscuits.

#### **Notices**

## **Worship Arrangements for Autumn/Winter**

The Kirk Sessions have agreed that for the next few months Barthol Chapel and Tarves will have united morning worship services at Tarves at 10.00am. This service will normally be accessible on Zoom. Anyone with symptoms of Covid should remain at home and join us on Zoom. In Church please respect in so far as possible the wishes of anyone who wants to maintain physical distancing.

**Advent/Christmas Bible Study** "Finding Time this Christmas" A five week course for individual study and group discussion prepared by Sanctuary First. The focus is on quality time - the quality time Jesus finds for us and we find for one another. Daily devotions on the weekly themes will appear on the website [www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk/daily](http://www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk/daily) worship. Discussion group will meet Saturdays throughout December in the manse, 8 Murray Avenue Tarves over coffee and rowies 9.30-10.30am as shown below. You are welcome at any or all of these meetings but it would be helpful for catering purposes to know in advance if you hope to be present.

*Saturday 10 December Finding time for stillness this Christmas*

*Saturday 17 December Finding time to share the love this Christmas*

*Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve Finding time to make room this Christmas*

*Saturday 31 December Hogmanay Finding time for Hallelujas this Christmas*

You are welcome at any or all of these It would be helpful for catering purposes to know in advance if you hope to be present. If there is demand, there will also be a mid-week evening Zoom meeting (bring your own rowies!). To register an interest or for more details please contact [aswindells@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:aswindells@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Tuesday 13 December Joint Kirk Sessions and Boards Meeting for Formartine Churches.** Kemnay Church Loaves and Fishes Centre 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

**Thursday 15 and Friday 16 Schools Walk-through Nativity** in Tarves Kirk. We would love help with decorating the church, leading craft activities, telling the story, packing goody-bags. If you can help then speak to Fiona or Joan McGill.

**Thursday 15 December Haddo Choral and Operatic Society Christmas Carols Concert** Tarves Kirk 7.30pm Tickets £10 Children free.

**Saturday 17 December Gingerbread Village** – Gingerbread villages will be created in the Formartine Churches. Come along and help construct the one in Tarves Kirk Saturday 17 December 4.00pm to 6.00pm. Details of how to make a house available from Caroline Brown [CarolineFYP@outlook.com](mailto:CarolineFYP@outlook.com)

## **Formartine Youth Project**

FYP has been chosen by Coop as one of their local causes for the next 12 months. Please support the young people of our community and choose FYP as your cause when you swipe your membership card and we will receive 1p from every £1 spent in store by Coop members. <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/73372>. This link can be shared with friends and family across the country – please get them on board too. Not a Coop member? Find out more at <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>.

**Tuesday Coffee Morning** in the Kirk at 10.00am

**Thursday Tarves Tots** now having a break over Christmas – returning on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 at 9.30am

**Pastoral Care** Please contact Alison