

## Barthol Chapel and Tarves Kirks

Order of Service Fourth Sunday in Advent 18 December 2022

Joint Worship 10.00am Tarves



### Finding Time for To Make Room this Christmas

#### Call to Worship/Lighting of Advent Candles

Leader: Advent means coming.

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

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)

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child  
and shall bear a son,  
and shall name him Immanuel ("God is with us"). (Is 7:14)

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

#### **Praise 288** Creator of the stars of night (Tune 129 Church Triumphant)

Creator of the stars of night,	not as a king, but as the child
your people's everlasting light,	of Mary, Virgin mother mild.
O Christ, redeemer of us all,	
we pray you, hear us when we call.	

When earth drew on to darkest night,	At your great name, majestic now,
you came, but not in splendour bright,	all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
	all things on earth with one accord
	join those in heaven to call you Lord.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, three in one,

praise, honour, might, and glory be  
from age to age eternally. Amen.

### **Prayers of Approach Lord's Prayer**

#### **Making Room for God's promise to be heard**

##### **The Word of God Isaiah 7:10-16**

*<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> 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.*

##### **Praise 472 Come thou long expected Jesus**

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.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious Kingdom bring.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

#### **Making Room for God's Promise to be Fulfilled**

##### **The Word of God Matthew 1:18-25**

*<sup>18</sup> 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 with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.*

##### **Meditation of the Innkeeper**

##### **Meditation of Mary**

**Praise 305** In the bleak midwinter (Omit v3)

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.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air;  
but only his mother,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the Beloved  
with a kiss.

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.

**Meditation of a resident of Bethlehem****Making Room for God's grace today****Meditation Redeeming Grace** by Emily Owen**Praise: 295** Who would think that what was needed

Who would think that what was needed  
to transform and save the earth  
might not be a plan or army,  
proud in purpose, proved in worth?  
Who would think, despite derision,  
that a child should lead the way?  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,  
monarchs scorn and angels sing;  
Such a place as none would reckon  
hosts a holy helpless thing.

Stable beasts and by-passed strangers  
watch a baby laid in hay:  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.

Centuries of skill and science  
span the past from which we move,  
yet experience questions whether,  
with such progress, we improve.  
While the human lot we ponder,  
lest our hopes and humour fray,  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.

**Prayers for Others****Praise 286** Tell out my soul

Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit  
voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his  
name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm  
has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his  
might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to  
flight,

the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word!  
Firm is his promised, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and forever more!

## Benediction

### Take Home Suggestions

1. Do all three suggestions from previous weeks of Advent and add in a lectio divina reading of Matthew 1:18-25. Find out how to do this at [www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk/video/watch/lectio-divina-genesis-32](http://www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk/video/watch/lectio-divina-genesis-32)
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.

### Christmas Services

**Sunday 18 December Barthol Chapel 7.00pm** Lessons and Carols

**Saturday 24 December Tarves 7.00pm** All Age Worship for Christmas Eve with procession of light followed by refreshments.

**Sunday 25 December Tarves 10.00am** Short All Age Worship for Christmas Day

**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 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. To register an interest or for more details please contact [aswindells@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:aswindells@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### 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

Tarves Parish Church of Scotland. Registered Charity: SC 017161

CCLI: 2417487, 2417504, 241749

Barthol Chapel Parish Church of Scotland. Registered Charity: SC 010960

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>.

**Pastoral Care** Please contact Alison