



Barthol Chapel and Tarves Kirks

Order of Service

Sunday 10 December 2023 10.00am

Second Sunday in Advent

Sung Call to worship with Lighting of Second Advent Candle

Light a candle bright and tall
For the Peace we wish to know.
Peace on Earth for great and small
God's Good News to us bestows.
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Peace, to us, we pray.

Praise 474 Hail to the Lord's anointed (Omit v2)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

For him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend,
his Kingdom still increasing,
a Kingdom without end.
The mountain dew shall nourish
a seed, in weakness sown,
whose fruit shall spread and flourish
and shake like Lebanon.

O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever;
That name to us is Love.

Prayer of Approach Lord's Prayer

Table Talk: How do you feel when you have to wait? What are you waiting for this Advent?

Praise: 473 Thy kingdom come

"Thy Kingdom come!"- on bended knee
the passing ages pray;

and faithful souls have yearned to see
on earth that kingdom's day.

But the slow watches of the night
not less to God belong;
And for the everlasting right
the silent stars are strong.

And lo, already on the hills
the flags of dawn appear;
Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,
proclaim the day is near:

The day in whose clear- shining light
all wrong shall stand revealed,
when justice shall be throned with might,
and every heart be healed:

when knowledge, hand in hand with
peace,
shall walk the earth abroad,
the day of perfect righteousness,
the promised day of God.

The Word of God: Malachi 3:1-7

3 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶ For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. ⁷ Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'

Galatians 5:13-14

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

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.

Sermon

Praise 291 When out of poverty is born

When out of poverty is born
a dream that will not die,
and 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!"

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!"

When God took flesh and came to earth,
the world turned upside down,
And in the strength of woman'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!"

Prayers for Others

Praise 296 While humble shepherds watched their flocks

While humble shepherds watched their
flocks
in Bethlehem's plains by night,
an angel sent from heaven appeared,
and filled the plains with light.

"Fear not" he said, for sudden dread
had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town, this day,
is born, of David's line,
the Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

"the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling-bands,
and in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph; And forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God; And thus
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will is shown from heaven above
and never more shall cease."

Benediction

Notices

Worship Arrangements

Barthol Chapel and Tarves will have united morning worship services at Tarves at 10.00am.
This service will normally be accessible on Zoom.

Walk Through Nativity We are looking for volunteers willing to help with this provision for the schools. Help required with sourcing scenery and props (suggested list on the notice-board), and setting up Tuesday 12 December 4.00pm.

Gingerbread Village – time to get crafty with your cardboard houses/shops etc. Houses should be handed into the Church prior to 4.00pm on Friday 15 December. (The Church will be open all day Friday for School Walk-Through Nativity. Lights switch on ceremony Sunday 17 December 4.00pm.

FYP

FYP were awarded £1982.94. Thanks to all who supported FYP through their shopping with the Coop.

Alpha Course – Coffee Apothecary, Pitmedden Wednesday Evenings 7.00 – 9.00pm Commencing 17 January 2024.

For more details contact David Price e-mail david@pricebs.co.uk

Pastoral Care: Please contact Alison Swindells Tel 01651 851295.

Tarves Kirk Cards/Notelets are available – bundles of 12 for a suggested donation of £5.00. All proceeds to Youth Hall Refurbishment.