



Barthol Chapel and Tarves Kirks

Order of Service

Sunday 17 December 2023 10.00am

Third Sunday in Advent

Sung Call to worship with Lighting of Second Advent Candle

Light a candle bright and tall
For the joy this season brings.
Joy like fountains brimming full.
Through our world now let it ring!
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Joy, to us, we pray.

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 the glorious throne.

**Prayer of Approach
Lord's Prayer**

Table Talk: Joy? What is it?

Praise: 290 The race that long in darkness pined

The race that long in darkness pined
has seen a glorious light;
The people dwell in day, who dwelt
in death's surrounding night.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
forevermore adored;
The Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the great and mighty Lord.

To us a Child of hope is born;
To us a Son is given;
Him shall the tribes of earth obey,
him all the hosts of heaven.

His power increasing still shall spread,
his reign no end shall know;
justice shall guard his throne above,
and peace abound below.

The Word of God: Luke 1:57-80

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' ⁶¹They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

*⁶⁸ 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.*

*⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty saviour for us
in the house of his servant David,*

⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

*⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,*

*⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.*

*⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,*

*⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.*

*⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,*

*⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'*

80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

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 promise, and his mercy sure.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the
Lord

to children's children and forevermore!

Sermon

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

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
we pray you, hear us when we call.

At your great name, majestic now,
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord
join those in heaven to call you Lord.

When earth drew on to darkest night,
you came, but not in splendour bright,
not as a king, but as the child
of Mary, Virgin mother mild.

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 for Others

Praise 294 On Christmas night all Christians sing

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
on Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before his grace,
and life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
heaven and earth with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born King.

Then why should we on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
then why should we on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
"Glory to God, on earth be peace,
goodwill to all shall never cease".

Benediction

Notices

Today 4.00pm Gingerbread village lights switch-on accompanied by carol-singing and followed by refreshments.

Next Sunday – Christmas Eve

10.00am Morning Worship

6.30pm Family Christmas Eve Service at Tarves

11.30pm Watchnight at Pitmedden

Christmas Day

10.30-11.00 Christmas Day Worship at Pitmedden

Sunday 31 December

10.00am Endings and Beginnings with sacrament of Baptism

Sunday 7 January 2024

No morning worship

3.00pm First service for Formartine Parish Church - Presbytery Service of Union at Pitmedden followed by refreshments – donations of baking please.

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.