



**Barthol Chapel and Tarves Kirks**

**Order of Service**

**Sunday 24 December 2023 10.00am**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent – Christmas Eve**

**Sung Call to worship with Lighting of Fourth Advent Candle**

Light a candle bright and tall  
For a Love which knows no end.  
Love that comes to one and all.  
Fear and hatred to upend.  
Shine within our hearts today  
Come, O Love, to us we pray.

**Praise 281 People look East**

People, look East. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look East, and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**Prayer of Approach  
Lord's Prayer**

**The Word of God: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep  
darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.*

*For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of  
Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;*

*authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.*

*He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for  
evermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

### **Poem by Ann Weems “Christmas comes”**

#### **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.*

*Angels and archangels  
worship night and day,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air,  
but only his mother,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved  
with a kiss.*

*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.*

*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.*

#### **The Word of God: Luke 1:26-38**

*26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.*

### **Poem by Godfrey Rust “Dancing”**

#### **Praise: 310 See him lying on a bed of straw**

*See him lying on a bed of straw:  
a draughty stable with an open door;  
Mary cradling the babe she bore-  
the Prince of glory is his name.*

*O, now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord of love again:  
just as poor as was the stable then,  
the Prince of glory when he came.*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,  
show where Jesus in the manger lies;  
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise  
to see the Saviour of the world!

Angels, sing again the song you sang,  
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;

sing that Bethl'em's little baby can  
be the Saviour of us all.

Mine are riches, from your poverty,  
from your innocence, eternity;  
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,  
child of sorrow for my joy.

### **A story for Christmas Eve – Papa Panov translated and adapted by Leo Tolstoy**

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

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love Divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;

Worship we our Jesus:  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

#### **Prayers for Others**

**Response:** Eternal God in your changing world, **Hear our prayer**

#### **Praise 324 Angels from the realms of glory (Omit v3)**

Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*Come and worship*  
*Christ, the new born king.*  
*Come and worship,*  
*worship Christ, the new born king.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,

Yonder shines the infant light:

Though an infant now we view him,  
he will share his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
Every knee shall then bow down:

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:

#### **Benediction**

#### **Notices**

##### **Today Christmas Eve**

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](mailto:david@pricebs.co.uk)

**Pastoral Care:** Please contact Alison Swindells Tel 01651 851295.