



Barthol Chapel and Tarves Kirks

Order of Service

Sunday 31 December 2023 10.00am

First Sunday of Christmas

Call to worship (Psalm 90:1,2,4)

Lord you have been our dwelling place

in all generations

Before the mountains were brought forth

Before ever you had formed the earth and the world

From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

For a thousand years in your sight

Are like yesterday when it is past,

Or like a watch in the night.

Praise 301 Hark the herald angels sing

**Prayer of Approach
Lord's Prayer**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8,11,14

3For everything its season, and for every activity under heaven its time:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to uproot;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time for mourning, and a time for dancing;

⁵ a time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;

a time to embrace, and a time to abstain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to discard;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to mend;

a time for silence, and a time for speech;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.....

¹¹God has made everything to suit its time;..... ¹⁴I know that whatever God does lasts for ever; there is no adding to it, no taking away. And God has done it all in such a way that everyone must feel awe in his presence.

Introduction: Reviewing the past with gratitude.

314 Child in the manger

Activity: Building a Cairn of Thanksgiving

What has given me life in my years of belonging to Tarves/Barthol Chapel Church/in the past year?

What has challenged me in my years of belonging to Tarves/Barthol Church/in the past year?

Prayer: Lord God, I offer the whole of me, because you love the whole of me)

Prayer

315 Once in royal David's city

The Word of God: Matthew 2:1-15

2In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

*⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '*

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

Reflection: Into the future

Activity: A star to guide

Write on your star one of the things that you recognised has given you life in your years of belonging to Tarves/Barthol Chapel Church/in the past year, that you would like to take forward into the future as we become part of Formartine Parish Church.

321 Come and join the celebration

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Penelope Cora Catto

Sung Blessing 796 The Lord bless you and keep you

Prayer

320 Joy to the world

Benediction

Notices

Today 31 December 2023

10.00am Endings and Beginnings with Sacrament of Baptism. Welcome to the friends and family of Penelope Cora Catto

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. If you would like a lift please contact your elder or the minister.

Sunday 14 January 2024

10.00am Morning Worship at Tarves. This service will be on Zoom.

Orders of Service

You will see that no words are included in this week's order as carols are well-known.

Going forward words of hymns will not be included in the order of service. If anyone would like to take a hymn book home these are available from Tarves Kirk. Please contact your elder or Alison.

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.