

Sunday 24th December, 2023 11.00 am
The Fourth Sunday in Advent - Christmas Eve 11am
Minister: Rev. Ian Taylor, A.C.I.B.S., B.D., Th.M., Dip. P.S.R.P.
Assistant Minister: Mrs. Julie Hearty, B.D.
Musical Director: Mr. Alan A. Craig. B.Mus., P.G.C.E.

Welcome & Intimations

Introit

Call to Worship

Hymn 277 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,

- 1 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart exult with joy,
and every voice with song!
- 2 He comes the prisoners to relieve,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken hearts to bind,
the bleeding souls to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 The sacred year has now revolved,
accepted of the Lord,
when heaven's high promise is fulfilled,
and Israel is restored.
- 5 Our glad hosannas, prince of peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy most honoured name.

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Call to Prayer

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Children's Address
The Advent Wreath

Hymn 282 Christmas is coming! (vv.1-4)

‘CHRISTMAS IS COMING’
THE CHURCH IS GLAD TO SING
AND LET THE ADVENT CANDLES
BRIGHTLY BURN IN A RING.

The first is for God’s promise
to put the wrong things right,
and bring to earth’s darkness
the hope of love and light.

The second for the prophets,
who said that Christ would come
with good news for many
and angry words for some.

The third is for the Baptist,
who cried, ‘Prepare the way.
Be ready for Jesus,
both this and every day.’

The fourth is for the Virgin,
who mothered God’s own son
and sang how God’s justice
was meant for everyone.

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2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

St. Luke 1:26-38

Hymn 262 For the world and all its people,

- 1 For the world and all its people,
we address our prayers to God.
*Confidently, all can worship
in the presence of the Lord.*
- 2 All the powerless, all the hungry
are most precious to their God.
- 3 For the poor, God has a purpose,
for the desperate, a word.
- 4 Christ is here, and Christ is stronger
than the strength of sin or sword.
- 5 God will fill the earth with justice
when our will and his accord.

Spanish, from Misa Popular Nicaraguense, English version John L. Bell (b. 1949) Reproduced from CH4 CD-ROM edition, number 262 Words: © Wild Goose Resource Group, The Iona Community, 4th Floor, Savoy Centre, 140 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3DH

Sermon

The Offering (& Sung Doxology: Hymn 807)

Prayer of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

**For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for
ever. Amen.**

Hymn 306 O come, all ye faithful, (vv.1-3)

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2 God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:
Chorus

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God
in the highest:'
Chorus

Adeste fideles Anonymous Latin, attributed to John Francis Wade (1711-1786) Etienne Jean Francois Borderies ((1764-1832) William Mercer (1811-1873), Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880), William Thomas Brooke (1848-1917) and others Copied from HymnQuest: Copyright Licence Users' Edition HymnQuest ID: 58575

Benediction

Choral Amen (3-fold)