

Sunday 21st December, 2025 The Fourth Sunday in Advent
Minister: Rev. Ian Taylor, A.C.I.B.S., B.D., Th.M., Dip. P.S.R.P.
Student Minister: Mr. Euan Gibb, B.A,P.G.D.E.
Musical Director: Mr. Alan Craig. B.Mus., P.G.C.E.
Guest Organist: Sheena Crichton

Members of the congregation who are able to stand are invited to do so as the Bible is brought in and taken out of the Church.

Welcome & Intimations

- **The Sunday School** will meet in **Room 2** today.
- Please ensure all **mobile phones 📱** are **switched off or in silent mode** during the Service.
- **Please place your offering in the Offering Plates** as these are uplifted during the Service.
- **Tea and Coffee** will be available after Church **today in the Cameron Hall.**
- There will be a **midweek Service on Wednesday 24th December, 2025 at 11.10am.**
- **On Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December, 2025 our Service** will be at **7.30pm. This Family Service will NOT be Live streamed and will be preceded by Carol singing from 7.10pm. Tea and Coffee will be served afterwards in the Cameron Hall with the Service concluding about 8.10pm. A Retiring Collection** will be held in aid of **The Lodging House Mission.**
- **On Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December, 2025, our Service** will be at **10.30am. Tea, coffee and light festive treats will be available in the Cambridge Chapel after this short Family Service.**
- **The Sunday after Christmas, December 28th 2025 our Service** will be at **11am as normal.**

Introit

Call to Worship

Hymn 472 Come, thou long expected Jesus,

- 1 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.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
 Hope of all the earth thou art;
 Dear desire of every nation,
 Joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver,
 Born a child and yet a king,
 Born to reign in us for ever,
 Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
 Rule in all our hearts alone;
 By thine all-sufficient merit
 Raise us to thy glorious throne.

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Call to Prayer

Prayers of Approach and Confession

Children's Address

The Advent Wreath

Hymn – Advent Candle (Tune: Joy to the World)

Chorus

*Come, light the candles, one by one,
The Advent call we hear.
With hope and peace and joy and love,
His light will fill the world, His light will fill the world,
His light will come and shine through all the earth.*

Verse 1 Hope

Light now the candle, hope's bright flame,
It shines through darkest night.
Let every heart prepare a place,
For Christ the saviour comes, for Christ the saviour comes,
For Christ will come and fill the world with light.

Chorus

Verse 2 Peace

Light now the candle, peace will grow,
God's promise shining clear.
No fear shall reign, no hate divide,
God's peace will surely come, God's peace will surely come,
God's peace will come and make the nations one.

Chorus

Verse 3 Joy

Light now the candle, joy we sing,
Our hearts are full and free.
For Christ our Lord is on the way,
Rejoice in Him always, rejoice in Him always,
Rejoice and let all praise be sung.

Chorus

Verse 4 Love

Light now the candle, love burns bright,
The greatest gift of all.
God's love was born in Bethlehem,
And His love we share, and His love we share
His love will come and light the world with grace

Chorus

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Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah^[a] said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?' ¹⁴ Therefore the

Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman^[b] is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.^[c] ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Psalm 80:1-7

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
6 You make us the scorn^[a] of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Hymn 315 Once in royal David's city

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

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St. Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son,^[b] and he named him Jesus.

Sermon

The Offering (& Sung Doxology: Hymn 807)

Prayers 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 286 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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 for evermore!

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Benediction

Choral Amen