

ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



1st Sunday of Advent

Order of Service
3rd of December 2023
10.30am

Find us: <http://www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk> on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stninianschurch/> & live on [YouTube](#)

Good morning and welcome to everyone who has joined us at St. Ninian's this morning. We hope you will enjoy our worship of God together today. As a congregation our mission is to, '**Worship God together, encourage personal faith and prayer, spread the Good News about Jesus Christ, and love and care for others in our community.**' If you are a visitor, there is a **visitors' book** at the front door, please sign it. After the service we have **fellowship** in the Martin Shields' Hall, please join us.

For young people, there is a **crèche** and **Sunday School** this morning. The reader this morning is: **Christine Miller**. The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. Leading worship are **Elliot Mitchell**, a ministry student, and the **Rev. James Aitken**, the minister of St. Ninian's.

This Sunday we celebrate **The First Sunday in Advent**.

The season of Advent is a season of waiting and hoping. It helps us to become aware of God's actions in the world in the past, present, and future. We hear the prophecies from the past of the Messiah's coming as they are addressed to us in the present as we wait for Christ's second coming in the future. That second coming is our hope that the whole world will be made whole; one day the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away.

There is a deliberate tension in the Advent season. Christ has come, and yet not all things have reached completion. While we remember Israel's waiting and hoping, and ourselves wait to celebrate Christ's birth, we look forward in hope to his coming again, preparing ourselves by committing to doing Christ's work on earth in the present.

St. Ninian's uses the Revised Common Lectionary is an approved week-by-week three-year cycle of biblical readings. In 2023 we are in Year A and the principal Gospel readings come from the **Gospel of Matthew**. The readings lead us from Advent through the Christian year, the Bible, and Jesus' life through birth, baptism, his public ministry, his death, resurrection and ascension.

ENTRANCE

The service begins with a **sentence from the Bible** (Luke 21: 28), a **call to stand** (please do so if you are able to), an **introit** from the choir, and the **entrance of the Bible**. For the rest of the service the words in bold are read or sung by everyone. We sit to pray and stand to sing.

INTROIT

WELCOME, INTIMATIONS and SHARING OF THE PEACE

We welcome one another with Christ's words 'Peace be with you'.

APPROACH TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 9:2)

Reader: We light the first advent candle to remind us of the prophets who believed in God during dark days and looked forward to the coming Messiah, Emmanuel, God with us. This candle is a sign of hope, of light in a dark world.

Congregation: 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.'

HYMN 273 O come, O come, Emmanuel

Emmanuel means 'God with us'. Traditionally this hymn is sung on the first Sunday of Advent. It reminds us of the Old Testament hope that God will be in the world, with us, to save his people.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

We continue our worship celebrating what God has given us while apologizing for what we have done to harm God, his creation, and his people.

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on 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.

LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES PRESENTATIONS

Jim Hunter, St. Ninian's Roll Keeper, will present certificates of long service to Ian Miller who has served as an elder of the Church of Scotland for 40 years.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 64: 1 – 9 Pg 612

Matthew 13: 24 – 37 Pg 814

HYMN 278 ‘Wake, awake! For night is flying

SERMON

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

HYMN 472 Come, thou long expected Jesus

PRAVERS OF INTERCESSION

During the prayers this sung response from hymn 276 is used periodically:

Wait for the Lord, his day is near,

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart,

OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Freely given, our offering supports the work of Christ's church and symbolises our spiritual dedication to the building-up of the Kingdom of God.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus took bread and wine. Giving thanks, he broke the bread, sharing it and the wine with his disciples. He asked them to continue this practice to remember him. We do so by taking bread and wine, announcing them as symbols of Jesus' body broken for us. All are welcome to share the gluten-free bread and the non-alcoholic wine.

HYMN 275 Come now, O Prince of peace

Invitation and Confession of Faith

Jesus invites us to the table. We respond to that invitation by reading together a statement of what we believe, The Apostle's Creed, which connects us through three centuries to the worldwide Church.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated
at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Narrative of the Institution

We hear Paul tell the story of Jesus' last supper with his disciples, and his instruction to them to repeat the meal in memory of him.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We say thank you for God's work in creation, the new life of Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit that brings us into communion with each other and with Christ for the purpose of building Christ's body on earth, the church.

Minister: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Minister: Generous God, thank you that you make this world marvellous for us to enjoy: you bless when we curse; you heal when we wound; you save when we are bent on being lost. Loving God, thank you that you gave Jesus as our friend to bring us to you. By our faith in him you recreate each one of us with a new life. Gracious God, thank you that in this new life your spirit draws us together in holiness, resurrecting here on earth your body, broken, but longing to be whole. By the power of that Holy Spirit may this bread and wine be for us the body and blood of your Son so that we may become his living body, loving and caring for the world. Now, gracious God, as an act of memorial, thanksgiving and commitment we follow the example Jesus set for us, and with your people of all places and all times, and with the whole company of heaven we proclaim your greatness and sing your praises in the angels' song:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Is. 6:3)

Minister Eternal God, ...

Breaking of Bread *In preparation for sharing bread we break it as a symbol of Christ's body broken for us in solidarity with all broken humanity.*

Communion

The elements of communion are in the pews. Please follow the instructions from the minister and serve yourself the bread followed by the wine. If you do not wish to take part pass the elements to your neighbour.

Minister: Jesus, Lamb of God,

All: have mercy on us.

Minister: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

All: have mercy on us.

Minister: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

All: grant us peace.

Minister: Jesus said, 'Come to me, all who are weary and whose load is heavy; I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble-hearted; and you will find rest for your souls.' (Mt 11: 28 – 29).

Post-communion prayer

SENDING OUT

HYMN 477

Lo, he comes with clouds descending

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

**Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**