

# ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Order of Service  
16<sup>th</sup> of March 2025  
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.

This is the **Second Sunday of Lent**, the season of the Christian year during which we prepare to commemorate Jesus' Passion and celebrate his resurrection. Lent lasts forty days (not counting Sundays), and this year it began on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March (Ash Wednesday). It ends on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April (Good Friday). Lent represents a journey. We travel with Jesus from Galilee, where he ministered, to Jerusalem, the place of his crucifixion and resurrection. This journey is an opportunity for us to prepare for the events of Holy Week and for the transformative event of Easter by reflecting on what we need to sacrifice in our lives and in the world that separates us and the world from God, and holding back the people of the world from living life in all its fulness. As we do so we look forward to living new lives beyond Easter as people who believe in the hope contained in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Son.

Before the service there is weekly a **Prayer Group** that meets in Room 6 (the Alpha Room) from 10:00am – 10:15am. Everyone is welcome, please ask a steward for Room 6, the Alpha Room.

There is a **crèche** and a primary **Sunday School** this morning. The reader this morning is **Sarah Aitken**. The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. Leading worship is the **Rev. James Aitken** and **Emma McMillan**, our ministry student.

Following worship there is **fellowship, friendship, and refreshments** in the Martin Shields' Hall. Please join us.

St. Ninian's uses the Revised Common Lectionary which is an approved week-by-week three-year cycle of biblical readings. In 2025 we are in Year C and the principal Gospel readings come from the **Gospel of Luke**. 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** (Psalm 27: 4), 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

Leader: Come, let us remember the promises of God,

**Congregation: who keeps his promises for ever.**

Leader: God created and cares for all living creatures,

**Congregation: and keeps his promises for ever.**

Leader: God sent to us his Son Jesus,

**Congregation: and keeps his promises for ever.**

Leader: God lives among us through the Holy Spirit,

**Congregation: and keeps his promises for ever.**

## HYMN 162      The God of Abraham praise

Around 1770, Thomas Olivers, an ardent follower of John Wesley, heard a cantor singing the Hebrew Yigdal (doxology) at a Synagogue. Olivers was so impressed by the music he wrote a Christian hymn based on the Yigdal, and called the tune Leoni - the professional name of the cantor. The opening line is based on Exodus 3:6, and the hymn overall reminds us we are all heirs of Abraham, through the covenant God made with him.

## 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.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 15: 1 – 12 , 17 – 18

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CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

**HYMN 644**      O Jesus, I have promised

**Children leave for Sunday School. Visiting children are welcome to join in.**

SCRIPTURE: Luke 13: 31 – 35

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**ANTHEM**      'Father, we praise Thee'      Eric H. Thiman

SERMON

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

**HYMN 537**      We do not hope to ease our minds

## 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. We remain seated to sing our dedication (**CH4 402**) -*

**'Take up your cross,' the Saviour said,  
'if you would my disciple be;  
Take up your cross, with willing heart,  
And humbly follow after me.'**

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

*We give thanks for our blessings, and cry out for help for others and ourselves.  
During the prayers this response is sung periodically:*

**HYMN 776** Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison

(trans: Lord, have mercy)

## SENDING OUT

### **HYMN 167**

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

## 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.