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Scottish Charities Number SC003834

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS - SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023

The Third Sunday of Advent

The Service will be conducted by The Chaplain, The Rev'd Dr Iain C Barclay, MBE, TD in association with The Rev'd Angus Smith, MA, LTh, accompanied by Professor Herbert Kerrigan, KC, Chairman of The Thistle Trust, The Consuls General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Christiane Hullmann, and the Republic of Ireland, Jerry O'Donovan, Lt Col Neil Morrison, OBE, JP, and Mrs Carolyn Brodie Mackay, Trustees of The Thistle Trust, Mark Hoolahan, Chief Executive Officer of The Thistle Foundation, and Dr Kenneth Dawson of New South Wales and Bartosz Skrzypczak, The Robin Chapel Choir will be conducted by its Director of Music, Paul Gudgin, Dr h.c. accompanied by the Robin Chapel Organist, Morley Whitehead, GRSM(Hons), FRCO(ChM), LRAM, ARCM

The threshold of the Service is intimated by the Organist playing the Organ Voluntary. At that point the Congregation are asked to stand. The soloist will sing the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. The Processional Cross followed by the Director of Music, the Choir, and Clergy will then enter the Chapel during which the Choir will sing verse 2 before the Congregation join with verse three and subsequent.

The Introit – Once in Royal David's City

Soloist -

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.

The Choir

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 mean and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

The Congregation shall join with the Choir

3. And through all His wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey
love and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as He.

4. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heav'n above,
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

5. 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.
Then like stars his children crowned,
all in white, his praise will sound

The congregation remain standing for the The Welcome.

The Welcome - by The Chaplain

Feasgar math a h-uile duine.

Guten Nachmittag, zusammen.

Good afternoon, everyone.

The Congregation are invited to be seated.

The Invitation

Offered by The Rev'd Angus Smith in Gàidhlig and the Chaplain in English

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let
it be our care and delight to hear again the
message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go
even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which
is come to pass.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture
the tale of the loving purpose of God from the first
days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption
brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole - *The Chaplain continues*
world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all
His people; for unity and brotherhood within the
Church He came to build, and especially in this
our own Communion.

And because this would rejoice His heart, let us
remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the
cold and hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and
them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the
aged and the little children; all those who know not
the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by
sin have grieved His heart.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those
who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and
in a greater light, that multitude which no man can
number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh,
and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for
evermore.

Prayers of Approach - offered by The Rev'd Angus Smith in English

Almighty God, we pray for the peace of the whole world, and the salvation of all humankind, beseeching Thee to enlighten the darkness of the earth with the beams of that Sun which shall no more go down. We pray for Thy holy Church, beseeching Thee to grant unto her that peace and unity which are agreeable to Thy will. Regard in Thy mercy the Church of our fathers and grant that all her members may live in concord, and strive together to advance Thy kingdom. Remember, O Lord, our beloved country; give us peace and prosperity and establish us in righteousness.

Remember, O Lord, at this season of joy, all those - *The Chaplain continues* who are in any kind of sorrow or distress, in particular, those who are suffering from COVID or COVID related illnesses and any such known to ourselves and help us in our gladness to remember the needs of others.

Remember, O Lord, the People of Ukraine in this time of suffering. Help us to understand what it means to stand in their shoes, Help us to grasp the experience of what it means to have your life threatened daily, your land stolen, your buildings and homes destroyed and your hope threatened with hopelessness. Bring to them Justice and Peace, healing, and renewal.

Blessed Lord Jesus, receive us this day at Thy manger cradle; accept the gifts we bring to Thee; inspire our lives with that love which brought Thee to dwell amongst us in low estate. Help us to live ever in accordance with Thy mind and will, that Thy kingdom upon earth may be revealed in all its glory.

Almighty God, we bless and praise Thy name - *The Rev'd Angus Smith concludes* for all Thy servants departed this life in Thy faith and fear, remembering in especial before Thee those dear to ourselves with whom we were wont to rejoice together at this time, and who now rejoice with Thee in heaven. Keep us ever united with them in spirit, and grant in Thy mercy that at the last we may meet with them again in Thy blessed presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be glory now and ever. **AMEN.**

Prayer an Sang at the Lichtin o Advent Cannles - read and sung in Scots

It staunds written i the Gospel, '
There kythed a man, sent frae God, at his name wis John.
He cam for a witness, tae beir witness tae the licht, at aa micht win tae faith
throu him. He wisna the licht himsel; he cam tae beir witness tae the licht.'
(John 1.6-8 - Lorimer)

We licht a third cannle, tae mind us o John the Baptizer wha said,

'Ane at is michtier nor me is comin efter me,
at I amna wurdie tae lout doun afore
an lowse the points o his shuin.' (Mark 1.7 - Lorimer)

The Third Cannle is lit by the lassie Christiane

Prayer - offered by hisell

Faither in heiven,
muive us an ithers bi thy Halie Spírit,
at ilkane at hes twa sarks may gíe ane til onieane at hes nane,
an ilkane at hes provand may dae the like;
at thy will may be dune on the yird, as in heiven
an aa lívin may see the saufin wark o God,
in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Carrell - un-announced - led by The Choir and accompanied by The Congregation

The Nicht is Near gane

Tune: Scots Traditional - 15th century?

1. Hey! nou the day dawis,
Nou Christ on us caais,
Nou walth on our waais
Appearis onane:
Nou the Wurd o God ringis
Whilk is King o aa kingis;
Nou Christis flock singis,
"The nicht is near gane.

2. Out the mirk, merk, a horn min!
Out its wame, conjoint warnin,
Ae Starn o the Mornin
Appearis onane:
The aul spaemen hae liftit;
For ilk gift tae be giftit
Th'iv niffert an coft it;
The nicht is near gane.

3. In winter it's simmer;
A yeld yowe's a gimmer;
Til Elspeth her kimmer
Appearis onane:
Syne the boy til her born,
I the muirs, e'en an morn,
"Repent, aa ye lorn!
The nicht is near gane."

The congregation now being seated the Choir will sing 'The Wexford Carol'

A Seasonal Carol - sung by The Choir - unannounced

The Wexford Carol

or the Enniscorthy Carol

Words: 15th Century Music: William H G Flood (1859–1928),

Irish traditional carol arranged by John Rutter

Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending His beloved Son

With thankful heart and joyful mind
The shepherds went the babe to find
And as God's angel had foretold
They did our Saviour Christ behold

With Mary holy we should pray,
To God with love this Christmas Day
In Bethlehem upon that morn,
There was a blessed Messiah born.

Within a manger He was laid
And by his side the virgin maid
Attending on the Lord of Life
Who came on earth to end all strife.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep
To whom God's angels did appear
Which put the shepherds in great fear

Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending His beloved Son

Prepare and go, the angels said
To Bethlehem, be not afraid
For there you'll find, this happy morn
A princely Babe, sweet Jesus, born.

The night before that happy tide,
The noble virgin and her guide
Were long time seeking up and down
To find a lodging in the town.

But mark how all things came to pass
From every door repelled, alas,
As was foretold, their refuge all
Was but a humble ox's stall.

The First Lesson - Read by Mark Hoolahan, CEO, The Thistle Foundation.

God declares in the garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head:

The Book of Genesis 3:13-15.

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”
Amen - and thanks be to God.

A Hymn of Joy - un-announced - led by The Choir and accompanied by The Congregation
On Christmas Night all Christians sing [CH4 294]

English Traditional after Luke Wadding [d. 1686]

Tune: Sussex Carol

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

2. Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad?
Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin He set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

3. When sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born King.

4. All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God on earth be peace,
goodwill to all shall never cease.

The Second Lesson - Read by Kenneth Dawson of New South Wales

God promises to Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed:

The Book of Genesis 22: 15-18.

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Amen - and thanks be to God.

A Seasonal Carol - sung by The Choir - unannounced

The Nativity Carol

Words and music by John Rutter

1. Born in a stable so bare
Born so long ago
Born 'neath light of star
He who loved us so
Far away, silent he lay
Born today, your homage pay
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day.

2. Cradled by mother so fair
Tender her lullaby
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky
Far away, silent he lay
Born today, your homage pay
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day.

3. Wise men from distant far land
Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare
Hearts with his warmth he fills
Far away, silent he lay
Born today, your homage pay
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day.

4. Love in that stable was born
Into our hearts to flow
Innocent dreaming babe
Make me thy love to know
Far away, silent he lay
Born today, your homage pay
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day.

The Third Lesson - Read by Lt Col Neil Morrison, OBE, JP, Trustee of The Thistle Trust

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah:

The Book of Isaiah, chapter 9, verses 2, 6 & 7.

² The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.
Amen - and thanks be to God.

A Seasonal Carol - sung by The Choir - unannounced

In the Bleak Midwinter

Words by Christina Rossetti (1830-94) Music by Harold Darke (1888-1976)

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3. Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

4. What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

The Fourth Lesson - Read by Jerry O' Donovan, Consul General of the Republic of Ireland

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem

The Prophet Micah, chapter 5, verses 2 to 4.

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labour bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.
Amen - and thanks be to God.

An Australian Traditional Carol

led by The Choir - accompanied by the congregation - unannounced

‘The Silver Stars Are in The Sky’

Words: John Wheeler and Music: William G James.

The Boo-Book is a small owl which emits a distinctive 'boo-book' call.*

1. The silver stars are in the sky,
The red-gold moon goes riding high,
O, sleep my little one sleep!

2. Once long ago, against her breast,
A mother rocked her child to rest,
Who was the Prince of Heav'n above,
The Lord of happiness and love.
O, sleep, my little one sleep!

3. The boobook* calls across the night,
The brown moths flutter in the light,
O, sleep, my little one sleep!

4. In Bethlehem long, long ago,
When roads and paddocks gleam'd with snow;
On this same night, that mother mild,
Lull'd into dreams her royal child.
So, sleep, my little one, sleep!

The Fifth Lesson - Read in German by Christiane Hullmann, with Thanksgiving, for the Friends of the Robin Chapel in Gemeinde Kutenholz in Lower Saxony, Germany.

The Angel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 1, verses 26-33 & 38.

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Amen - and thanks be to God.

A Seasonal Carol - sung by The Choir - unannounced

Il est né le divin enfant

Traditional French Carol

Il est né, le Divin Enfant,
Jouez hautbois, résonnez musette.
Il est né, le Divin Enfant,
Chantons tous son avènement. (Refrain)

Depuis plus de quatre mille ans
Nous le promettaient les prophètes,
Depuis plus de quatre mille ans
Nous attendions cet heureux temps.

Refrain

Ah, qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant,
Ah, que ses grâces sont parfaites.
Ah, qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant,
Qu'il est doux ce Divin Enfant.

Refrain

He is born, the divine child,
Play the oboes, ring out the bagpipes!
He is born, the divine child,
Let us all sing his coming! (Refrain)

For more than four thousand years,
The prophets promised him to us
For more than four thousand years,
We were awaiting this happy time

Refrain

Oh! But he is handsome, he is charming!
Oh! But his graces are perfect!
Oh! But he is handsome, he is charming!
He is so sweet this divine child!

Refrain

Une étable est son logement,
Un peu de paille est sa couchette,
Une étable est son logement,
Pour un dieu quel abaissement.

Refrain

O Jésus, ô Roi tout puissant,
Tout petit enfant que vous êtes,
O Jésus, ô Roi tout puissant,
Réglez sur nous entièrement.

Refrain

A stable is his lodging
A bit of hay his little bed,
A stable for his lodging
For a God, such humility!

Refrain

Oh Jesus! Oh All-Powerful King
Such a little child that you are,
Oh Jesus! Oh All-Powerful King,
Rule over us entirely!

Refrain

The Sixth Lesson

Read in Gàidhlig by The Rev'd Angus Smith, formerly a Chaplain to His Majesty's Forces

St. Matthew tells of Christ's nativity:

The Gospel according to St. Matthew 1:18-23.

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Amen and thanks be to God.

A Seasonal Carol - sung by The Choir – unannounced

The Lamb

Text: William Blake

Music: Sir John Tavener (1944 – 2013)

Little Lamb who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight, Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice, Making all the vales rejoice:
Little Lamb who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb I'll tell thee, Little Lamb I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name, For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek and he is mild, He became a little child:
I a child and thou a lamb, We are called by his name:
Little Lamb God bless thee. Little Lamb God bless thee.

Our next hymn in *Gàidhlig* is, *Ciùine an Oidhch*, in German it is, *Stille Nacht* in French *Douce Nuit*, *Sainte Nuit* and in English it is *Silent Night*. The Choir will lead in German, but you are invited to sing in your own language.

A Hymn of Praise - un-announced - led by The Choir and accompanied by The Congregation
'Still the night' [CH4 309]

by Joseph Mohr [1792-1848] - tr. S A Brooke [1832-1916]

Tune: Franz Xavier Gruber [1787-1863]

1 Still the night, holy the night!
Sleeps the world; hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in stable bare
watch o'er the child belovèd and fair,
sleeping in heavenly rest,
sleeping in heavenly rest.

2 Still the night, holy the night!
Shepherds first saw the light,
heard resounding clear and long,
far and near, the angel-song,
'Christ the Redeemer is here!'
'Christ the Redeemer is here!'

3 Still the night, holy the night!
Son of God, O how bright
love is smiling from thy face!
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,
Saviour, since thou art born!
Saviour, since thou art born!

1 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigten Harr,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

2 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Hirten erst kundgemacht!
Durch der Engel Halleluja
tönet es laut von fern und nah:
Christ der Retter ist da!
Christ der Retter ist da!

3 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund
da uns schlägt die rettende Stund,
Christ, in deiner Geburt!
Christ, in deiner Geburt!

The Seventh Lesson - Read in Polish by Bartosz Skrzypczak.

The shepherds go unto the manger:

The Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 2, verses 8 to 16.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Amen - and thanks be to God.

A Seasonal Carol - sung by The Choir - unannounced

Ach mein herzliebes - Jesulein

Music: J. S. Bach from the Christmas Oratorio

Ach mein herzliebes Jesulein,
Mach dir ein rein sanft Bettelein,
Zu ruhn in meines Harsens Schrein,
Daß ich nimmer vergesse dein!

Ah, my heart's beloved little Jesus,
make Yourself a pure, soft little bed
within my heart's chamber in which to
rest,
so that I never forget You!

The Eighth Lesson - read by Carolyn Brodie Mackay - a Trustee of the Thistle Trust

The Wise Men are led by the star to Bethlehem

The Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 2, verses 1 to 11.

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"^[b]

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Amen - and thanks be to God.

A Seasonal Carol - sung by The Choir - unannounced

Ding, Dong Merrily on High

Words: G. R. Woodward

Music: 16th Century French melody arranged by David Willcocks

1. Ding dong, merrily on high!
In heav'n the bells are ringing;
ding dong, verily the sky
is riv'n with angel singing.

2. E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
by priest and people sungen.

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

3. Pray ye dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
may ye beautifully rhyme
your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

The congregation are invited to stand for the reading of the 9th Lesson.

The Nineth Lesson - Read by The Chaplain

St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation:

The Gospel according to St. John, chapter 1, verses 1 to 14.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome [\[a\]](#) it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Amen - and thanks be to God for these readings of His Holy Word and to His Name be the Praise and the Glory.

Hymn of Praise

Joy to the World [CH4 320]

Tune: Antioch

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

The Congregation are asked to be seated

Let us Offer our Prayers - un-announced

Sursum Corda - The Choir

Cantor: The Lord be with you;
Choir: And with thy spirit.
Cantor: Lift up your hearts;
Choir: We lift them up unto the Lord.
Cantor: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;
Choir: It is meet and right so to do.

It is verily meet, right, and our bounden duty,
that we should at all times and in all places give
thanks unto Thee, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty,
Everlasting God; who didst create the heavens and
the earth and all that is therein; who didst make
man in thine own image:

For that by the mystery of the Word made flesh
the light of Thy glory hath shone anew upon the
eyes of our mind; so that while we acknowledge
Him as God seen by men, we may be drawn by
Him to the love of things unseen:

Thee, mighty God, heavenly King, we magnify
and praise, with Angels and Archangels, and with
all the company of heaven, we worship and adore
Thy glorious name; evermore praising Thee, and
saying:

The Sanctus – The Congregation - *seated* (St Anne Mass, composed by James McMillan)

The musical score is written for organ and choir. The organ part is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It begins with a bracketed section marked 'organ' and then continues with a melody marked 'mp'. The choir part is on a single staff in the same key and time, with lyrics underneath. It starts with a 'mf' dynamic. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the'.

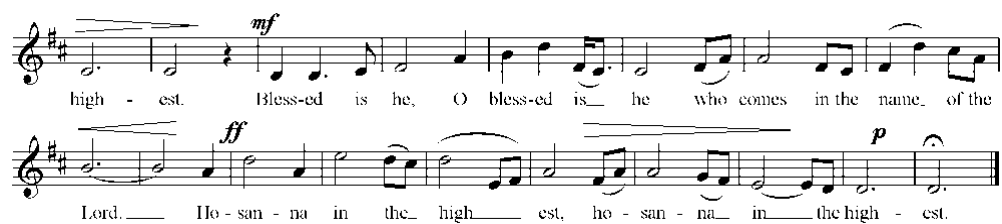
organ

mp

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of

mf

power and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the



Prayer - continues unannounced - offered by The Rev'd Angus Smith in English

God, who makest us glad, with the yearly
 remembrance of the birth of Thine only Son,
 Jesus Christ; grant that as we joyfully receive Him
 for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence
 behold Him when He shall come to be our Judge;
 who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy
 Ghost, world without end. AMEN.

God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest
 Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles;
 mercifully grant that we, who know Thee now by
 faith, may after this life be brought to contemplate
 the beauty of Thy majesty; through the same Jesus
 Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with
 Thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. AMEN.

These prayers we humbly offer up to the throne
 of heaven in the words which Christ Himself hath taught us,
 to pray together, saying, Our Father;

(and may be said in English, Gaelic or German)

**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,
 the power and the glory,
 for ever. Amen**

**Ar n-Athair
 a tha air nèamh,
 Gu naomhaichear d'ainm.
 Thigeadh do rìoghachd.
 Dèanar do thoil air an
 talamh,
 mar a nìthear air nèamh.
 Tabhair dhuinn an-diugh
 ar n-aran làitheil.
 Agus maith dhuinn ar
 fiachan,
 amhail a mhaitheas sinne
 dar luchd-fiach.
 Agus na leig ann am
 buaireadh sinn;
 ach saor sinn o olc:
 oir is leatsa an rìoghachd,
 agus an cumhachd, agus a'**

**Vater unser im Himmel,
 geheiligt werde dein Name;
 dein Reich komme;
 dein Wille geschehe,
 wie im Himmel so auf
 Erden.
 Unser tägliches
 Brot gib uns heute.
 Und vergib uns unsere
 Schuld,
 wie auch wir vergeben
 unsern Schuldigern;
 und führe uns nicht in
 Versuchung,
 sondern erlöse uns von
 dem Bösen.
 Denn dein ist das Reich
 und die Kraft**

glòir, gu sìorraidh. Amen

und die Herrlichkeit in
Ewigkeit. Amen.

Hymn of Joy – unannounced

‘O come all ye faithful’ [CH4 307]

Tune: Adeste Fideles

Latin, 18th century, possibly by John Francis Wade [1711-1786]

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: *[Refrain]*

2. God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo he abhors not the virgin’s womb;
very God,
begotten, not created: *[Refrain]*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
in the highest: *[Refrain]*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *[Refrain]*

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*



Collect for the Blues and Royals [Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons]

O Lord Jesus Christ who by the holy Apostle has called us to put on the Armour of God and to take the sword of the spirit, give thy grace we pray thee to the ‘Blues and Royals’ that they may fight courageously under thy banner against all evil, and waiting on thee to renew their strength, may Mount up with wings as eagles in thy name who liveth and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God world without end. **AMEN**

The Blessing - offered by The Rev’d Angus Smith

Christ who by his incarnation gathered into one,
things earthly and heavenly,
grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the Blessing of God Almighty
the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

A Hymn of Praise - *un-announced*

'Hark the herald angels sing' [CH4 301]

Tune: Mendelssohn [Bethlehem]

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ by highest heav'n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Farewell & Invitation

As we bring our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols to a close may I extend to you the Christmas good wishes of Professor Herbert Kerrigan, KC, Chairman, and his fellow Trustees of the Thistle Trust, Paul Gudgin, our Director of Music and the voices from the Robin Chapel Choir, our Organist, Morley Whitehead, our Readers today and myself.

Today we have been uplifted and reassured by God's eternal message of Love and Compassion which he shows towards us. My invitation to you is this – accept His invitation and rely on it - no matter what, for He will always bring his reassurance to his Children of Grace of whom you are one.

Regrettably, this year we are unable to invite you for Festive Refreshments before your journey home due to illness amongst the Thistle Foundation staff who serve us.

Until we meet again, stay safe, and serve the Lord with Peace and Justice.

Organ Voluntary

Fantasia on "In dulci jubilo", BWV 729 - J S Bach



The Collect of The Blues & Royals [Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons]

O Lord Jesus Christ who by the holy Apostle has called us to put on the Armour of God and to take the sword of the spirit, give thy grace we pray thee to the 'Blues and Royals' that they may fight courageously under thy banner against all evil, and waiting on thee to renew their strength, may Mount up with wings as eagles in thy name who liveth and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God world without end. AMEN

On the outbreak of World War II, Robin volunteered for service in the army, expressing a preference for a cavalry regiment. In October 1940, he received instructions to report to the 53rd Training Regiment, of the Royal Armoured Corps, where he spent 14 weeks. In January 1941, Robin moved to the Officer Cadet Training Unit at Sandhurst then received his commission in the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues), which he joined in June 1941. The Life Guards and The Blues are senior regiments in the British Army, known together as the Household Cavalry, and they form the personal bodyguard of the Sovereign. In 1943, Robin was appointed second-in-command of the Household Cavalry Detachment, based at Windsor, and accompanied the Royal Family on operational and ceremonial duties. In October 1943, Robin was posted to the First Household Cavalry Regiment stationed in Egypt, moving to Italy in 1944, and returning to England later that year. In 1945, he was stationed in Germany. On 4 May 1945, the day on which the Second World War formally ended, a telegram was received by Robin's parents informing them that Robin Tudsbury had been killed in action on 30 April. He was aged 25.

Like Robin himself, the Robin Chapel has enjoyed a close association over the years with members of the Royal Family. The Foundation Stone was laid by Her Majesty the Queen, later Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, on 5 September 1950, accompanied by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Margaret. Some three years later they travelled from Balmoral Castle on 20 August 1953 for the Dedication of the Chapel. To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the dedication, a special service was held in July 2013, attended by Her Majesty the Queen and HRH The Earl of Wessex.

Other royal visits have included –

1962: The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh

1981: Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay

1994: The Duchess of Kent

2000: The Princess Royal

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the dedication, a special service was held in July 2013, attended by Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex. In October 2013, to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Chapel a special service was held to lay up the Sovereign's Standard of the Blues and Royals, which served to reinforce the special link with the Robin Chapel and his Regiment.

The Thistle Foundation was established in 1944 with a pioneering mission to give disabled veterans the medical support they needed in a home where they could live with their families, rather than being in hospital. The Founder and his wife, Sir Francis and Lady Tudsbery, had witnessed the consequences that resulted in the lack of adequate housing and support for disabled service personnel after the First World War. Many of these people had to spend the remainder of their lives in long stay hospital care, which added significant extra strain and financial hardship for relatives. This frequently led to the breakdown of family life. Sir Francis's vision was for a community supported by professional staff that would create as normal an environment as possible for families to live together in comfortable circumstances.

He had recently seen a facility in Chelsea, which was running on similar lines, and so began the long and arduous task of raising the funds to form The Thistle Foundation. However, it was while Thistle Foundation was being built, Sir Francis and Lady Tudsbery tragically lost their son Robin during the final days of the war and decided to incorporate The Robin Chapel in the development.

Future Services at 4pm every Sunday except as intimated

24 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve

No Service

31 December - The First Sunday of Christmas

No Service

7 January 2024 - A Service of Carols and Readings for Epiphany

Preacher: The Chaplain

14 January 2024 - Second Sunday of Epiphany

Preacher: tbc

21 January 2024 - Third Sunday of Epiphany

Preacher: The Rev'd Prof Iain R Torrance, KCVO, Kt, OStJ, TD, FRSE

28 January 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

A Service to Commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day [27 January]

Guest Preacher: Rabbi Mark L Solomon

the Rabbi to the Edinburgh and Leicester Liberal Jewish Communities



Photography by Dr Teodor G Borz