

# WELLINGTON CHURCH

*Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)*

We welcome into the life and worship of our congregation all people whatever their ethnic origin, gender, background, age, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability. We affirm our diversity and the dignity of each person.

*Love one another, as I have loved you. (John 15:12)*



**SUNDAY, 23RD DECEMBER 2018**



**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**

**Opening Voluntary:** *Noel in G ('Bon Joseph écoute moi')*

L C Daquin

Welcome and Notices

Opening Prayers

**One:** Our theme in the fourth week of Advent is that of liberation. We think of the freedom that is the destination of our pilgrimage - your freedom, Lord Christ, is your birth at Bethlehem; our freedom is in you.

For freedom Christ has set us free.

**All:** **Stand firm and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

*The first, second, third, and fourth Advent candles are lit*

**One:** Let us pray.  
Lord, you call us on our pilgrimage to follow your road to freedom. May we not rest on that road, but follow you all the way.

**All:** **May the candle we light today light our way on our pilgrimage and may you be the companion and guide as we travel. Amen**

Cloth for the Cradle:

*You are invited to bring a cloth strip forwards to put on the cradle. As you do so, think and pray about those things that are close to your heart at this Christmas season and lay them down at the feet of the one who said "See, I am making all things new." (Rev. 21.5)*

The Service will proceed without announcements.

**Hymn 286** *'Tell out my soul'*

**First Lesson: Genesis 3.8-15,17-19**

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent,

'Because you have done this,

    cursed are you among all animals

    and among all wild creatures;

upon your belly you shall go,

    and dust you shall eat

    all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,

    and between your offspring and hers;

he will strike your head,

    and you will strike his heel.'

And to the man he said,

'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,

    and have eaten of the tree

about which I commanded you,

    "You shall not eat of it",

cursed is the ground because of you;

    in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;

    and you shall eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your face

    you shall eat bread

until you return to the ground,

    for out of it you were taken;

you are dust,

    and to dust you shall return.'

Choir: 'Adam Lay Ybounden' Boris Ord

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter Thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, An apple that he took,  
As clerkes finden Written in their book.  
Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been,  
Ne had never our lady A been heavené queen.  
Blessed be the time That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen, Deo gracias!

### **Second Lesson: Genesis 22.15-18**

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

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Choir: 'The Truth from above' R Vaughan Williams

Solo: 'Ev'ry valley shall be exalted' G F Handel

### **Third Lesson: Isaiah 9.2,6-7**

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Solo: *The people that walked in darkness (Messiah)* G F Handel

#### **Fourth Lesson: Micah 5.2-4**

*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

**Hymn 304** *'O little town of Bethlehem'*

#### **Fifth Lesson: St Luke 1.26-35,38**

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Solo and Choir: *'O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion'* (Messiah) G F Handel

## Sixth Lesson: St Luke 2.1,3-7

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### **Hymn 314** *'Child in a manger'* (Bunessan)

Choir: *'Still, still, still'* Austrian carol arr. Andrew Gant

Still, still, still, let all God's world be still.  
While Mary's holy child lies sleeping,  
angels guard are quietly keeping;  
still, still, still, let all God's world be still.

Love, love, love, my heart is filled with love.  
The world from night is slowly turning,  
still my heart with love is yearning;  
love, love, my heart is filled with love.

Still, still, still, let all God's world be still.  
In gentle Mary's sweet caressing,  
Jesus give his silent blessing;  
still, still, still, let all God's world be still.

## **Seventh Lesson: St Luke 2.8-16**

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

### **Hymn 302** *'It was on a starry night'*

Duet: *'Cantique de Noël' (O Holy night)* (Adolphe Adam (arr. Alan Kitchen)

Minuit, chrétiens, c'est l'heure solennelle,  
Où l'Homme Dieu descendit jusqu'à nous  
Pour effacer la tache originelle  
Et de Son Père arrêter le courroux.  
Le monde entier tressaille d'espérance  
En cette nuit qui lui donne un Sauveur.  
Peuple à genoux, attends ta délivrance.  
Noël, Noël, voici le Rédempteur,  
Noël, Noël, voici le Rédempteur!

De notre foi que la lumière ardente  
Nous guide tous au berceau de l'Enfant,  
Comme autrefois une étoile brillante  
Y conduisit les chefs de l'Orient.  
Le Roi des rois naît dans une humble crèche:  
Puissants du jour, fiers de votre grandeur,  
A votre orgueil, c'est de là que Dieu prêche.  
Courbez vos fronts devant le Rédempteur.  
Courbez vos fronts devant le Rédempteur.

Le Rédempteur a brisé toute entrave:  
La terre est libre, et le ciel est ouvert.  
Il voit un frère où n'était qu'un esclave,  
L'amour unit ceux qu'enchaînait le fer.  
Qui lui dira notre reconnaissance,  
C'est pour nous tous qu'il naît, qu'il souffre et meurt.  
Peuple debout! Chante ta délivrance,  
Noël, Noël, chantons le Rédempteur,  
Noël, Noël, chantons le Rédempteur!

## **Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2.1-12**

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reflection

Prayer (said together):

**With the joy that was Mary's  
may our souls magnify the Lord,  
and our bodies be the means  
through which you continue  
the mighty work of salvation  
for which Christ came. Amen**

Choir: *'Small wonder the star'* Paul Edwards

Small wonder the star, small wonder the light,  
the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;  
but stable and manger for God, no small wonder.

Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore  
the gold and the incense, the myrrh to adore;  
but God gives his life on a cross, no small wonder.

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace;  
the power, the glory, the light of his face;  
but all to redeem my poor heart, no small wonder.

### **Ninth Lesson: St John 1.1-14**

*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### **Hymn 301** *'Hark! the herald angels sing'*

Benediction

Amen (spoken)

**Closing Voluntary:** *'In Dulci Jubilo'* BWV 729 J S Bach

**Organist:** Alan Kitchen

## **TODAY - SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER**

**11.00 am - Fourth Sunday in Advent - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**

led by the Rev. Dr. Roger Sturrock  
with Alan Kitchen and the choir

Crèche facilities available (under 3's)

**Tea and Coffee in the Woodlands Hall after Morning Service**

**(no Evening Service)**

## **THIS WEEK**

### **MONDAY, 24TH DECEMBER**

**11.30 pm - Watchnight Services**  
**at Kelvinside Hillhead Parish Church, Observatory Road**  
**and at St. John's Renfield Church, Beaconsfield Road**

### **TUESDAY, 25TH DECEMBER**

**11.00 am - Christmas Day Family Service**  
conducted by the Rev. Dr. Roger Sturrock

### **NEXT SUNDAY - 30TH DECEMBER**

**11.00 am Joint Morning Service with Hillhead Baptist Church**  
conducted by the Rev. Dr. Norman Shanks  
and the Rev. Catriona Gorton

**(no Evening Service)**

## **MORE NOTES & DATES**

*A retiring offering for "Toy Box" (which provides a space for children visiting relatives in Barlinnie) will be taken on Christmas Day .*

**CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH** - For many years, Hillhead Baptist Church have provided a service to the community in serving lunch on Christmas Day, mainly for those who would otherwise be on their own or from overseas. This year they will be hosting the lunch in Kelvinside-Hillhead's Hall, Observatory Road, at 12.30 for 1.00 pm. Anyone from Wellington who would like to join them for lunch will be very welcome indeed - just turn up on Christmas Day.

**HOGMANAY WATCHNIGHT** - A service, hosted by Glasgow Churches Together, is being held in Glasgow Cathedral on **Saturday, 31st December** at 11.00 pm. All welcome.

**CRYPT CAFÉ** - The Café re-opens at 10.30 am on **Monday, 7th January 2019**.

**'OUT OF OFFICE HOURS'** - An invitation from our Locum, the Rev. Liz Johnson Blythe, to drop by and join her in Matilda's Café on Byres Road (next door to Papyrus and opposite Waitrose) any time between 2.00 and 4.00 pm on **Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January** for coffee and a chat. Come one – come all – even if you have done so previously!

**CONVERSATION CORNER** - We restart on **Wednesday, 9th January 2019**. Do you like chatting with strangers? Is English your first language? Have you two hours to spare on a Wednesday from 3.00 pm till 4.45 pm? Then come to be a HOST at the English Language Conversation Corner in Wellington's Crypt Cafe. Your Guests could be students (under-grad or post-grad), migrant workers, asylum seekers, or people who have lived in Glasgow for years but still want to practise their spoken English. Email: [grace@iwelcomeclub.com](mailto:grace@iwelcomeclub.com) for full details.

**INTERNATIONAL WELCOME CLUB** – Club's activities will resume on **Friday, 11th January 2019** at 7.30 pm with a Games Night. Don't be bored. Try some board games for fun and to deduce your personality. Chess, Chinese chequers, etc. Free and all welcome. Afterwards we will have tea, coffee and chat, plus home baking from a member of the congregation. For information on the Club's activities email: [grace@iwelcomeclub.com](mailto:grace@iwelcomeclub.com)

## **MORE NOTES & DATES** (continued)

**QUESTIONS OF FAITH GROUP** – We meet again on **Thursday, 17th January** and will be reading 'Homo Deus: a brief history of tomorrow' by Yuval Noah Harari. Copies are available in paperback, on Kindle and for audio download. There are also some used copies available from the usual sources but, with postage, these appear to be more expensive than new copies. Our first session will be led by Rex Taylor. All are welcome.

**ASSISTING MINISTER** - Roger Sturrock, our Assisting Minister, has been assigned, by Glasgow Presbytery Strategic Planning Committee, to cover a period of leave for the minister of Kelvinbridge Church. He will be placed there from 7<sup>th</sup> January until 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019. During that time, he will no longer be fulfilling the role of Assisting Minister at Wellington, though he has kindly made arrangements so that he will be able to lead our Sunday morning worship where he is already on the preaching rota. He has agreed with the Presbytery that he will take up his role with us again on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Roger will be much missed and we look forward to welcoming him back at that time.

**READER ROTA – JANUARY/FEBRUARY** - A sign-up sheet is available in the Woodlands Hall (on the hook between the Sunday School and World Mission Boards). All members of the congregation are warmly encouraged to participate by inserting their name against a suitable date on the Rota to ensure that visiting ministers know who will be reading the scriptures on Sunday mornings. Readings will be available on the Friday before the service.

**WORLD MISSION STAMP APPEAL** - The long running stamp appeal continues, this year supporting day care centres for children and young people with disabilities run by The Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine. Stamps can be left in the box underneath the pamphlet shelf at the side door.

**TRUSSELL TRUST NORTH EAST FOODBANK** - Items required are: Tins of Meat, Potatoes, Vegetables, Fruit. A box is available at the side door for donations of non-perishable items and it is entirely at people's discretion how often or whether they donate.



**PRAYER GROUP** - The Prayer Group meet regularly on a Tuesday - from 2.00 to 3.00 pm - at the Wilsons' home, 15 Falkland Street. Our prayer is strengthened when we unite with others, learning to pray by doing it. We give thanks for those who use the weekly prayer notes and will welcome new companions in our Tuesday quiet time.

**FOCUS ON PRAYER** (provided by the Prayer Group)

*"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,  
and they shall call him Emmanuel" - which means,  
"God is with us."*

Matthew 1.23 (NIV)

- ◆ Give thanks that the truth of the Christian message never changes.
- ◆ Pray that Christmas Day may be a day of peace for Christians everywhere.
- ◆ Praise God for the good news of the coming of Jesus and give thanks for all people of faith who have carried and shared the good news through the centuries.
- ◆ Pray for those who are far from home and family at this time.
- ◆ Give thanks for friendship.

If you wish prayer for any matter, please contact:  
Maureen Small Tel: 946 5316 or Ann Wilson Tel: 357 4924

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