

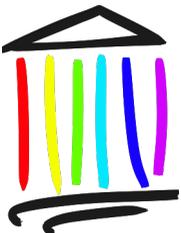
# WELLINGTON CHURCH

*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, 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

CAROL SERVICE FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

### **Opening Voluntary**

*Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr*

JS Bach

### **Introit** *The Truth from above*

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love,  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all both rich and poor.

Thus he in love to us behaved,  
To show us how we must be saved;  
And if you want to know the way,  
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

### **WELCOME AND NOTICES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Hymn 315** *Once in royal David's city* (vv.1-3)

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.



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 Saviour holy.

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

## **LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE**

*Choir - Let us light a candle*

**Richard Shephard / Words by Robert Woods**

In a world where people walk in darkness  
Let us turn our faces to the light,  
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,  
to the Daystar scattering our night.

*For the light is stronger than the darkness*

*And the day will overcome the night.*

*Though the shadows linger all around us,*

*Let us turn our faces to the light.*

In a world where suffering of the helpless  
Casts a shadow all along the way,  
Let us bear the Cross of Christ with gladness  
And proclaim the dawning of the day.

*For the light is stronger...*

Let us light a candle in the darkness,  
In the face of death, a sign of life.  
As a sign of hope where all seems hopeless,  
As a sign of peace in place of strife.

*For the light is stronger...*

## **PRAYERS OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION**

### ***Advent Poem***

**Jan Sutch Pickard**

A time for panic and a time for hope,  
of urgency with much uncertainty,  
of waiting and impatience,  
a time of looking forward and a time for looking back,  
awareness of our mortality,  
with eagerness to celebrate new life.

A time for prophecy  
and for practical preparations;  
a time for silence and a time for singing,  
a time for stillness and a time for travelling on;  
When plants die while seeds and corms store spring;  
when the safe and familiar give way to wonder.

As migrating flocks cross our skies,  
constellations wheel with the turning year;  
the story of the seasons,  
the story of salvation -  
Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, Pentecost –  
the song never ends.

A time of too many expectations,  
and a time of deep expectancy;  
a time for being human together,  
and a time to celebrate God-with-us;  
Incarnation. Amen

**Hymn 295** *God's Surprise* (tune: *Scarlet Ribbons*)

Who would think that what was needed  
to transform and save the earth  
might not be a plan or army,  
proud in purpose, proved in worth?  
Who would think, despite derision,  
that a child should lead the way?  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,  
monarchs scorn and angels sing;  
such a place as none would reckon  
hosts a holy helpless thing.  
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers  
watch a baby laid in hay:  
God surprises earth with heaven  
coming here on Christmas Day.

Centuries of skill and science  
span the past from which we move,  
yet experience questions whether,  
with such progress, we improve.  
While the human lot we ponder,  
lest our hopes and humour fray,  
God surprises earth with heaven  
coming here on Christmas Day.

## **Isaiah 9.2, 6-7**

### **The prophecy of Isaiah**

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.

### ***Choir - O thou that tellest good tidings from Zion (Isaiah 40.9) from Messiah by G. F. Handel***

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,  
get thee up into the high mountain.  
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem,  
lift up thy voice with strength;  
lift it up, be not afraid;  
say unto the cities of Judah,  
behold your God!

## **St Luke 1.26-35, 38**

### **Mary's meeting with the angel Gabriel**

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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

## *Choir - Angels' Carol*

**John Rutter**

Have you heard the sound  
Of the angel voices  
Ringing out so sweetly  
Ringing out so clear?

Have you seen the star  
Shining out so brightly  
As a sign from God  
That Christ the Lord is here?

Have you heard the news  
That they bring from heaven  
To the humble shepherds  
Who have waited long?

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Hear the angels sing  
Their joyful song

He is come in peace  
In the winter's stillness  
Like a gentle snowfall  
In the gentle night

He is come in joy  
Like the sun at morning  
Filling all the world  
With radiance and with light

He is come in love  
As the child of Mary  
In a simple stable  
We have seen his birth

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Hear the angels singing  
'Peace on earth'

He will bring new light  
To a world in darkness  
Like a bright star shining  
In the skies above

He will bring new hope  
To the waiting nations  
When he comes to reign  
In purity and love

Let the earth rejoice  
At the Saviour's coming  
Let the heavens answer  
With the joyful morn

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Hear the angels singing  
'Christ is born'

## St Luke 2.1-7

### The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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 291 *When out of poverty*

When out of poverty is born  
a dream that will not die,  
and landless, weary folk find strength  
to stand with head held high,  
it's then we learn from those who wait  
to greet the promised day.  
'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart.  
Be blest; prepare the way!'

When people wander far from God,  
forget to share their bread,  
they find their wealth an empty thing,  
their spirits are not fed.  
For only just and tender love  
the hungry soul will stay.  
And so God's prophets echo still  
'Be blest; prepare the way!'

When God took flesh and came to earth,  
the world turned upside down,  
and in the strength of woman's faith  
the Word of Life was born.  
She knew that God would raise the low,  
it pleased her to obey.  
Rejoice with Mary in the call,  
'Be blest; prepare the way!'

## **St Luke 2.8-14**

### **The Shepherds and the Angels**

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!'

### **Choir - *Shepherds' Farewell* from *L'enfance du Christ*, Hector Berlioz**

Thou must leave Thy lowly dwelling,  
The humble crib, the stable bare.  
Babe, all mortal babes excelling,  
Content our earthly lot to share.  
Loving father, Loving mother,  
Shelter Thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore Thee  
With humble love and holy fear.  
In the land that lies before Thee,  
Forget not us who linger here!  
May the shepherd's lowly calling,  
Ever to Thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure,  
Thou happy father, mother mild!  
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure,  
The Prince of Peace, The Holy Child!  
God go with you, God protect you,  
Guide you safely through the wild!

## *Christmas* **John Betjeman**

The bells of waiting Advent ring,  
The Tortoise stove is lit again  
And lamp-oil light across the night  
Has caught the streaks of winter rain  
In many a stained-glass window sheen  
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge  
And round the Manor House the yew  
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,  
The altar, font and arch and pew,  
So that the villagers can say  
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,  
Corporation tramcars clang,  
On lighted tenements I gaze,  
Where paper decorations hang,  
And bunting in the red Town Hall

Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.  
And London shops on Christmas Eve  
Are strung with silver bells and flowers  
As hurrying clerks the City leave  
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,  
And marbled clouds go scudding by  
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,  
And oafish louts remember Mum,  
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.  
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'  
Even to shining ones who dwell  
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,  
A Baby in an ox's stall ?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true ? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissue'd fripperies,  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare -  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

***Choir - O Holy Night***  
**Adolphe Adam**

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,  
À cette nuit qui lui donne un Sauveur.  
Peuple, à genoux, attends ta délivrance  
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,  
À votre orgueil, c'est de là que Dieu prêche.  
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!

## **Palestine today: Cry for Hope/WCC statement**

In 1948, when the state of Israel was created in the land we commonly call 'holy', 750000 Palestinians were driven from their homes. Now over 5 million Palestinians still live in refugee camps in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. In defiance of international law and repeated United Nations resolutions Palestinians living in Israel are discriminated against. The Israeli government continues to approve the development of illegal settlements on the occupied territory of the West Bank. Palestinians have their homes arbitrarily demolished and their olive trees and vines vandalized and destroyed. And In Gaza around 2 million live under siege with unemployment running at over 50% and the social infrastructure, not least health and education services, and water and electricity supplies, close to breaking down.

Last year Palestinian Christians, in their quest for justice, peace and an end to the occupation, invited churches, congregations and other supporters world-wide to endorse their *Cry for Hope*, urgently seeking decisive action through study and reflection, political engagement, and supporting and visiting local projects and initiatives; but it has to be said that, while the response and support has been encouraging, there is no sign of improvement.

Last month the World Council of Churches released an important and unprecedented statement expressing grave concern over the deteriorating situation in Palestine and Israel, and appealing to "the conscience of the world" concerning "the unremitting military occupation of the Palestinian territories and the ongoing marginalization and obstruction of legitimate Palestinian aspirations for equal human dignity and rights."

So we continue, especially at this time of year, to remember the people of Palestine in our prayers and, as we are able, to press our political representatives and leaders to take an ever-stronger line in persuading the international community and the Israeli government in particular to bring about change in the pursuit of human rights, justice and peace for all.

For further information see -  
<https://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/>  
<https://www.cryforhope.org>  
<https://www.oikoumene.org/news/>  
<https://www.map.org.uk/>

**Hymn 303** *It came upon the midnight clear*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to you,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not  
the love-song which they bring;  
oh, hush the noise and still the strife  
to hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years  
still dawns the Age of Gold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever, Amen.**

## **St John 1.1-14**

### **The Light of the World**

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 flesh or human will, 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*

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 the angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

*"Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ, by highest heaven 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 Immanuel!

*Hark!...*

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
risen 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!...*

**BENEDICTION**

**Hymn 320** *Joy to the world* (v.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 heaven and nature sing.

**Closing Voluntary** *In Dulci Jubilo* BWV

JS Bach

**Organ** Alan Kitchen

**Readings** Arthur Allison, Foye Weatherhead, The Ashcroft Family, John Bradley, Robin Green, Grace Franklin, Glenda White

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**TODAY SUNDAY – 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**11.00 am Morning Service in Wellington  
and Worship on-line**

led by the Rev. Dr Norman Shanks

**7.00 pm Online Evening Service**

Led by Catriona Gorton

**THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday**

**12 noon and 3.00pm Conversation Corner by Zoom**

**No Watchnight Service**

**NEXT SATURDAY – 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

**11.00 am Morning Service in Wellington and on-line**

led the Rev. Dr Roger Sturrock

**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

Online service with Hillhead Baptist Church

## **MORE NOTES AND DATES**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH TODAY CANCELLED** – Due to the current Covid situation, and following the latest Church of Scotland guidance, today's Christmas lunch has unfortunately had to be cancelled.

**CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARDS** - Wellington Church cards are now ready. Please take one for yourself and another for any neighbour or friend who might appreciate it. We are not trying to cover the whole parish as in some years, but members of Mission and Outreach are delivering cards to local shops and businesses.

**SUNDAY SERVICE 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** – held by Hillhead Parish Church will take place online via Zoom. Contact church officer for details.

**S.I.R. MARY'S MEAL** – A message from Deirdre (Mary's Meals) to Wellington Church: "Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you so much for your wonderful generous donations throughout 2021. May Jesus bless you with His peace, now and always"

**DEC AFGHANISTAN CRISIS APPEAL** - The DEC, the umbrella organisation for major relief charities has launched an appeal for Afghanistan, and the British Government has promised to match funding up to £10 million. Donations can be made on-line or cheques may be sent to : DEC Afghanistan Crisis Appeal, PO BOX 999, London EC3A 3AA

**CRYPT CAFE** will open again after the Christmas break 4 days a week from the **10<sup>th</sup> January**. If would like to volunteer contact Jackie: 3349887 [jackie@murrays.org.uk](mailto:jackie@murrays.org.uk)

**Friday 24 Dec - no International Club session.**

But contact: [grace@iwelcomeclub.com](mailto:grace@iwelcomeclub.com) for an invitation to the NEW YEAR'S DAY LUNCH TIME ZOOM. All welcome.

**The International Welcome Club** wishes all members of Wellington Church a Joyful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Join us for the English Language Conversation Corner on ZOOM any Wednesday including 22 and 29 Dec and any Friday except 24 and 31 Dec.

**No prayer group this week. The meetings will resume on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

**FOCUS ON PRAYER:**

“Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord”.

Luke 2.11 NIV

- ◆ Give thanks for the greatest gift to humanity - Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Pray for persecuted Christians in Bangladesh.
- ◆ Pray for Sawan Masih, accused of blasphemy and imprisoned since 2014.
- ◆ Pray for Christian lawyers.
- ◆ Give thanks for every sign of the Christian story bringing us the light and love of Jesus Christ today and every day.
- ◆ Pray for the people of mid America and all who suffered in the tornado. Give thanks for the joy of music and all who lead us in worship.

Amen

If you wish prayer for any matter, please contact:  
Maureen Small Tel: 946 5316 or Ann Wilson Tel: 357 492

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