

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall

www.stmagnuscathedral.org

Scottish Charity SCO 05322/CCL No 119086

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Welcome to St Magnus Cathedral this morning. It was founded in 1137 by St Rognvald, in honour of Magnus, his uncle. The Cathedral belongs to the people of Orkney and its doors are open to all. If you are a visitor, we hope this order of service will help you feel part of our worship together.

Sunday 1st December
Morning Service 11.15am

If you are able please stand at parts marked *

The congregation is invited to say the words in **bold** print
Gathering

Welcome to Worship

Gathering Music

Lighting of the Christ candle and a time of Silence

L; All creation holds its breath.

All; The time is almost here.

L; The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

All; Excitement is all around us.

L; We prepare our hearts–The grace of God takes on human form.

Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

**All; We gather to make ready our hearts
for the coming of Christ, our hope.**

[You may wish to use these words to help focus]

I breathe in the calm of God's presence. I breathe out my worries.

Holy Spirit, fill my life. Holy Spirit fill my world.

* **HYMN** The Advent Journey Tune: "Stowey" CH4 230

Will you come on a journey now Advent's arrived,
to prepare for the coming of God in your life;
to walk with His servants who travel this way,
and arrive at the stable on God's special day?

Will you travel with Mary who follows God's call
as she carries the Promise God's given us all
to Bethlehem Town, be it easy or hard,
to find rest at the stable expecting your Lord?

Will you join with the shepherds come down from the hills
in response to the angels, with joy to be filled;
with workmen to come on that glorious morn,
and to seek out the stable where Jesus is born?

Will you sing with the angels of Peace for the earth,
as their Good News rings out of Emmanuel's birth;
to join them rejoicing, our glory to see,
and to meet at the stable where Jesus will be?

Will you set out in faith with the sages of old
as a star gives them guidance as they had been told;
with Wise Men to share as your worship you bring,
and bow down in the stable with gifts for your King?

“Yes, I’ll come on this journey! I’ll travel with you,
for it’s time to prepare for what my Lord will do.
It’s time to get ready now Advent’s come round,
and set out for the stable where God’s Love is found.”

Tom Gordon

*** Opening Responses**

L; Advent is a season of mystery. It asks us not to grasp at answers
**All; but instead to watch for the Christ who meets us in the midst
of our uncertainty and unknowing.**

L; In this season, our questions become starting places,
doorways, thresholds.

**All; May we allow these days to draw us into a place where
darkness gives way to discernment, and wonder leads us to
wisdom.**

Gathering Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope

L; Together...

All: We light this candle to honour the visionary spirit in us all.

Bible Reading:

L Every time we read and listen

All; The Word is born in us again.

Isaiah 2 1-5 [see also Romans 13; 11-14 and Matthew 24;36-44]

This is the message which God gave to Isaiah son of Amoz about
Judah and Jerusalem: In days to come the mountain where the
Temple stands will be the highest one of all, towering above all the
hills. Many nations will come streaming to it, and their people will
say, “Let us go up the hill of the LORD, to the Temple of Israel's God.
He will teach us what he wants us to do; we will walk in the paths he
has chosen. For the LORD's teaching comes from Jerusalem; from
Zion he speaks to his people.” He will settle disputes among great
nations. They will hammer their swords into ploughs and their
spears into pruning knives. Nations will never again go to war, never
prepare for battle again. Now, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the
light which the LORD gives us!

L For wisdom in the Word of old for contemporary insights in story
and song for Word made flesh in a baby—and in us

All; We give thanks.

* **HYMN** 275 Come now, O Prince of Peace.

Contemporary Reading

Anthem:

SERMON Rev Cecilie Jorgensen Strommen,

Uplifting of the offering

Prayer of Dedication

* **HYMN** 290 The race that long in darkness pined

Lighting of the Grimstad Christmas Tree

* **Sharing the Peace** [A chance for people to bless others in God's presence]

L; Peace, is the gift of God to us all.

**All; May the God who spoke to an ordinary woman,
bring peace into our lives**

L; May the God who came as a vulnerable Child,

All; and the Spirit join us in songs of joy.

Candle of Remembrance and Hope

[All sing] Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, he rescues me from death.
[The candle of Remembrance and Hope is lit.]

[All sing] Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, he leads me into life.

Prayers of Concern and the Jesus 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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.

Now and for ever. Amen.

* **HYMN** 286 Tell out my soul

* **Sending out**

L; We go in hope into this Advent season.

All; We follow a star that's twinkling with courage,

L; blazing with possibility to the space,

All; the essence, that is God.

* **Benediction**

* **Choral Amen**