

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 15 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

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 pause for a moment and reflect on God's life-giving presence
in every part of my body, in everything around me, in the whole of
my life.*

* **HYMN** 472 Come, thou long expected Jesus

* **Opening Responses**

L; We look forward to the gifts that Christmas brings;

Jesus who came to show God's love.

**All; The hope seen when disparate people
gather together to celebrate**

L; The peace often offered by people of faith
and no faith during the holiday season

All; The joy of giving and receiving, of hospitality and sharing

Gathering Prayer

The Lighting of the Advent Candle of Wisdom

L; Together...

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

Bible Reading:

L Every time we read and listen **All; The Word is born in us again.**

MATTHEW 11; 2-11

At that time, John the Baptist was in prison. But people told him about all the things that Jesus the Messiah was doing. So John sent some of his own disciples to ask Jesus some questions. They said to him, 'John the Baptist wants to know this. Are you the special person that God is sending to us? If not, should we still look for someone else?'

Jesus replied, 'Go back to John. Tell him what you have been hearing.

Also, tell him what you have been seeing. Blind people can now see again. People who could not walk can now walk again. People who had a bad illness of the skin are now well again. Deaf people can now hear again. People who had died now live again. Poor people are hearing

God's good news. If anyone believes in me and does not turn away, he will be really happy.'

John's disciples went away again. Jesus spoke to the crowd about John. He said to them, 'You went out to the wilderness. What did you go there to see? Was it a tall piece of grass which the wind was blowing this way and that? No, you did not go to see that. So, did you go to see a man who was wearing expensive clothes? No! People like that do not live in the wilderness. They live in kings' great houses. So, what did you go to see? Did you go to see a prophet sent by God? Yes! But I tell you, John was even more important than a prophet. This is what someone wrote about him a long time ago in the Bible. God said:

"Listen! I will send someone to go in front of you.

He will speak my message. He will prepare a way for you."'

Jesus went on to say, 'I tell you this. John the Baptist is greater than any person who has ever lived up to now. But now anyone who belongs in the kingdom of heaven, even the least important of them, is greater than John.

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 My spirit shall rejoice

My spirit shall rejoice in God, who breaks my chains of guilt and fear;
For God upholds each person's worth throughout the ages of this Earth.
God's love shall fill my life with fire, God's justice form my heart's desire.

This just and holy love of life can turn our thinking upside down
Empowering all the poor to act till common wealth becomes a fact.
Each evil tyrant's rule shall cease, each conflict end in lasting peace.

The timeless wisdom Mary sang still holds for those who seek today
To live the Gospel's sacred dream of justice born of self esteem.
Sing birth-day songs with mirth and verve, Mary's boy-child was born to
serve.

Contemporary Reading

Anthem:

SERMON

Uplifting of the offering

Prayer of Dedication

* **HYMN** 277 Hark the glad sound!

* **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

L: In the dark and stillness of night All **We dream of healing and hope**

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** 477 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

* **Sending out**

L: the light: **All; may it stretch;**

L; the promise: **All may it broaden;**

L; the child: **All; may he hasten.**

* **Benediction**

* **Choral Amen**

Please remain seated until choir and clergy have processed out