

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 22nd 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 pause for a moment, aware that God is here.

I think of how everything around me,

the air I breathe, my whole body,

is tingling with the presence of God.

* HYMN 281 People, look East

* Opening Responses

L; The Christmas spirit is the hope which tenaciously
clings to the hearts of the faithful

**All; And announces in the face of any Herod the world can
produce and all the inn doors slammed in our faces
and all the dark nights of the soul**

L; That with God all things still are possible

All; That even now: Unto us a child is born!

Gathering Prayer

The Lighting of the Advent Candle of Love

L; Together...

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

* HYMN 282 Christmas is coming

O come all ye faithful?: a sketch

Sometimes a sketch is just the thing. This one shows just how many traditional carols are linked to and influence our remembering of the Bible at Christmas.

Anthem:

SERMON

Uplifting of the offering

Prayer of Dedication

Affirming

* HYMN 287 No wind at the window

* Sharing the Peace

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 304 O little town of Bethlehem

* **Sending out**

L; This year, this year, who comes in form of God's befriending?
What voice to cry for peace?

**All; A child with human face will plead compassions case,
entreat our conflicts' ending -**

L; Make way, make way for signs of angel visitation! What
daughter or what son may be the coming One, new Christ,
in love begun, new light of revelation?

**All; Make room, make room! The time is near to be
awaking, for in creation's womb the Word has made a home -
the seed for summer bloom within the earth is breaking.**

* **Benediction**

* **Choral Amen**

Please remain seated until choir and clergy have processed out