

## **St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall**

[www.stmagnuscathedral.org](http://www.stmagnuscathedral.org)

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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.

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### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 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]

*In silence I become aware of God.*

*In the silence I feel the presence of God.*

*In the silence my problems can fall into their rightful place.*

*In the silence I can become a grateful person.*

*And in the silence, God and I become one.*

\* HYMN 195 Here to the house of God we come

#### \* Opening Responses

L; As we continue our journey to Bethlehem

**All; We watch as the Advent candle of Hope  
shines brightly on it's stand.**

L; Let us watch and wait together.

**All; Let us watch and wait with hope.**

### Gathering Prayer

#### Lighting of the Advent Candle of Justice

L; Together...

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

#### Exploring

L Every time we read and listen

**All; The Word is born in us again.**

#### Galatians 5; 22 - 26

But what happens when we live God's way? God brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness

permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.

Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

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 482 Come, let us to the Lord our God

### Contemporary reading

Anthem:

### SERMON

Time for Reflection [during which the offering will be uplifted]

### Prayer of Dedication

**All; As we bring these token gifts of money, we commit ourselves to living, loving, hoping and working for peace, in Jesus' name.**

### *Affirming*

\* HYMN 274 Comfort, comfort, now my people

### \* Sharing the Peace

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** 710 "I have a dream" a man once said.

\* **Sending out**

L; The light: **All; may it brighten;**  
L; the dark: **All; may it lessen;**  
L; the fear: **All; may it diminish;**  
L; The love **All; May it deepen**

\* **Benediction**

\* **Choral Amen**

*Please remain seated until choir and clergy have processed out*