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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.

Cathedral Facebook QR code below.



Please, NO photography of any sort during the service.

Sunday 15th December 2024

The Third Sunday in Advent

Rev June Freeth is leading our worship today.

We welcome all visitors to our service. To use the induction loop system, please turn to the "T" setting.

*If you are able, please stand at parts marked **

*All are invited to say the words in **bold** print.*

Welcome

Gathering Music: Behold a Rose is Blooming Michael Praetorius

Lighting of the Christ candle

All: As this season of "sparkle and bright" unfolds around us the transforming wonders of joy await discovery like shimmering sugar crystals on a favourite treat. May we create joy in all our surroundings as we share gifts, meals, and simple pleasures with family and may the easy gift of a smile bring the power of joy's touch to those we meet through these busy days. And may we experience the joy of this season as though with the eyes and hearts of children that we might be transfixed by power of what could be.

May Joy light the world this Christmas.

All sing [*seated*] **Hymn 772** In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

Gathering Meditation, Prayer and a Time of Silence

Advent Light

* **HYMN 273** O come, O come, Emmanuel

Bible Readings:

Leader: Until we can see ourselves in the words we read and the stories we hear, it is easy to remark on the rest of the world.

All: **May the light of these words fall strong upon each of us, that we can find the truth they reveal in our own hearts this day.**

Zephaniah 3:14-20 [*Good News Translation*]

¹⁴ Sing and shout for joy, people of Israel! Rejoice with all your heart, Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has stopped your punishment; he has removed all your enemies. The LORD, the king of Israel, is with you; there is no reason now to be afraid. ¹⁶ The time is coming when they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not be afraid, city of Zion! Do not let your hands hang limp! ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you; his power gives you victory. The LORD will take delight in you, and in his love he will give you new life. He will sing and be joyful over you, ¹⁸ as joyful as people at a festival." The LORD says, "I have ended the threat of doom and taken away your disgrace. ¹⁹ The time is

coming! I will punish your oppressors; I will rescue all the lame and bring the exiles home. I will turn their shame to honour, and all the world will praise them. ²⁰The time is coming! I will bring your scattered people home; I will make you famous throughout the world and make you prosperous once again." The LORD has spoken.

Philippians 4:4-7 [Good News Translation]

⁴May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again: rejoice! ⁵Show a gentle attitude toward everyone. The Lord is coming soon. ⁶Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. ⁷And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.

Luke 3:7-11 [Good News Translation]

⁷Crowds of people came out to John to be baptized by him. "You snakes!" he said to them. "Who told you that you could escape from the punishment God is about to send? ⁸Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins. And don't start saying among yourselves that Abraham is your ancestor. I tell you that God can take these rocks and make descendants for Abraham! ⁹The axe is ready to cut down the trees at the roots; every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire." ¹⁰The people asked him, "What are we to do, then?" ¹¹He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none, and whoever has food must share it."

Leader: Into the silence of our hopes and dreams, words work upon us to break, crack, open us to new understanding.

All: May we experience, in these words, a seeking after truth, that we may lift ourselves to this same desire.

* **PSALM 98** [Hymn 62] Sing a new song to the Lord

Contemporary Reading

Anthem: A Tender Shoot Otto Goldschmidt

SERMON

Time for Reflection [during which the offering will be brought forward]

* **PRAISE** "This is the Time of Waiting" [Tune: Aurelia]

This is the time of waiting, the calm before the storm,
the time of Advent judgement, the coming of the dawn;
a time of recollection, of Christ's audacious hope,
beyond imagination, outside our human scope.

The nations will be gathered, the age will be fulfilled,
the judgement be enacted, as Christ had hoped and willed.
But for this consummation such birth-pangs will be felt,
like rupturing of wine-skins, the earth will heave and melt.

For love to be exalted, for hatred to be banned,
our human goals must shatter, division must be spanned.
A change of mind is needed as we are turned around,
to move from desecration, to find love's solid ground

* **Sharing the Peace** [*We share a handshake or bow with hands together.*]

Leader: Let us take a moment to celebrate each other.

May a heart of peace rest with you.

All: **And also with you**

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 Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive

our debtors: and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,

for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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

Parting words

Leader: Gathered together

All: We wait for the light.

Leader: Standing together

All: We trust in the light.

Leader: Praying together

All: We hope for the light.

Leader: Seeking together

All: We step out with the light.

Leader: Singing together

All: We are blessed by the light.

* **Benediction**

* **Choral Amen**

Please remain seated until choir and clergy have processed out

NOTICES

Coffee is served after the service in the north aisle leading up to the

St Rognvald Chapel, next to the Royal Oak bell.

All are warmly invited to join us for coffee and a chat.

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Sunday 22nd December

11.15am Morning Service of Celebration. Fourth Sunday in Advent.

6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
