

ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



*'Keep awake, then; for you do not know on what day your Lord will come.'
(Matthew 24: 42)*

1st Sunday of Advent

Order of Service

30th November 2025

10.30am

Find us: <http://www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk> on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stninianschurch/> & live on [YouTube](#)

Good morning and welcome to everyone who has joined us at St. Ninian's this morning. We hope you will enjoy our worship of God together today. As a congregation our mission is to, '**Worship God together, encourage personal faith and prayer, spread the Good News about Jesus Christ, and love and care for others in our community.**' If you are a visitor, there is a **visitors' book** at the front door, please sign it.

Before the service there is weekly a **Prayer Group** that meets in Room 6 (the Alpha Room) from 10:00am – 10:15am. Everyone is welcome, please ask a steward for Room 6, the Alpha Room.

There is a **crèche** and a primary **Sunday School** this morning. The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. The reader this morning is **Christine Millar**. Leading worship is the **Rev. James Aitken**.

This Sunday we celebrate **The First Sunday in Advent**.

The season of Advent is a season of waiting and hoping. It helps us to become aware of God's actions in the world in the past, present, and future. In the present, as we walk hopefully through this troubled world, we hear prophecies from the past about the Messiah's coming while we wait for Christ's second coming in the future when the whole world will be made whole; one day the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away.

Following worship there is **fellowship, friendship, and refreshments** in the Martin Shields' Hall. Please join us.

St. Ninian's uses the Revised Common Lectionary which is an approved week-by-week three-year cycle of biblical readings. In 2025 we are in Year A and the principal Gospel readings come from the **Gospel of Matthew**. The readings lead us from Advent through the Christian year, the Bible, and Jesus' life through birth, baptism, his public ministry, his death, resurrection and ascension.

ENTRANCE

The service begins with a **sentence from the Bible** (Luke 21: 28), a **call to stand** (please do so if you are able to), an **introit** from the choir, and the **entrance of the Bible**. For the rest of the service the words in bold are read or sung by everyone. We sit to pray and stand to sing.

WELCOME, INTIMATIONS and SHARING OF THE PEACE

We welcome one another with Christ's words 'Peace be with you'.

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 9:6)

Reader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called.

Congregation: Wonderful counsellor.

We light the first Advent candle

Reader: We light this candle as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ.

HYMN 273 O come, O come, Emmanuel

Emmanuel means 'God with us'. Traditionally, we sing this hymn on the 1st Sunday of Advent reminding us of the Old Testament promise that God will be with His people.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

We continue our worship celebrating what God has given us while apologizing for what we have done to harm God, his creation, and his people.

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 2: 1 – 5

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CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

HYMN 282 'Christmas is coming!' (*chorus and verse 1 only*)

Children leave for Sunday School. Visiting children are welcome to join in.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24: 36 – 44

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ANTHEM 'A Clare Benediction'

Rutter

SERMON

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

HYMN 278 'Wake, awake! for the night is flying',

OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Freely given, our offering supports the work of Christ's church and symbolises our spiritual dedication to the building-up of the Kingdom of God. We remain seated to sing our dedication (**CH4 292**) -*

**So Father, we would thank you
For all that you have done,
And for all that you have given us
Through the coming of your Son.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, LAMENT & INTERCESSION

*We give thanks for our blessings, and cry out for help for others and ourselves.
During the prayers this sung response from **hymn 276** is used periodically:*

**Wait for the Lord, his day is near,
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart,**

SENDING OUT

HYMN 477 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

BENEDICTION

**Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**