

ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



Order of Service
5th September 2021
10.30am

<http://www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk> and on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/stninianschurch/>



Good morning and welcome to everyone who has joined us on-line 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.'**

Services are online from 10:15am on Sundays: on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/stninianschurch/> and on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW-OUJ0F3JLO9vUD7KYMffa>

This Sunday is **Quarterly Communion**. Everyone is welcome at Christ's table. Please come to the service prepared with bread and wine or the equivalent to suit a Sunday morning at home. The bread represents Christ body, the wine represents his blood. In communion we remember that Jesus Christ, God incarnate, lost his life to bring us good news from God and to bring us into loving communion with God and each other.

St. Ninian's uses the Revised Common Lectionary is an approved week-by-week three-year cycle of biblical readings. 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.

I know that my Redeemer liveth

Handel

WELCOME, INTIMATIONS AND SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

APPROACH TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN 124 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
praise God, my soul, for in him are your health and salvation
come all who hear
into his presence draw near
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord
Who in all things is wondrously reigning
shields you from harm and is gently yet firmly sustaining.
Have you not seen how your heart's wishes have been
Granted by God's wise ordaining?

Praise to the Lord who with blessing and power will defend you
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
God will for ever befriend you

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him
All that has life and breath
Come now with praises before Him
Let the 'amen' sound from God's people again
Gladly for ever adore Him

PRAYERS OF APPROACH, CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

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: James 2: 1 – 10, 11 - 14 (New revised Standard Version)

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 7: 24 - 37

(New Revised Standard Version)

²⁴From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁸But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' ²⁹Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go - the demon has left your daughter.' ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

HYMN There is a line of women

There is a line of women,
extending back to Eve
Whose role in shaping history
God only could conceive
And though, through endless ages,
their witness was repressed
God valued and encouraged then
through whom the world was blessed.

So sing a song of Sarah to laughter she gave birth
And sing a song of Tamar who stood for women's worth
And sing a song of Hannah who bargained with her Lord
And sing a song of Mary who bore and bred God's Word

There is a line of women
who took on powerful men
Defying laws and scruples
to let life live again
And though, despite their triumph,
their stories stayed untold
God kept their number growing,
creative strong and bold

So sing a song of Shiphrah with Puah in her hand
Engaged to kill male children they foiled the king's command
And sing a song of Rahab who sheltered spies and lied
And sing a song of Esther, preventing genocide

There is a line of women
who stood by Jesus' side
Who housed him while he ministered
and held him when he died
And though they claimed he'd risen
their news was deemed suspect
Till Jesus stood among them,
his womanly elect

So sing a song of Anna who saw Christ's infant face
And sing a song of Martha who gave him food and space
And sing of all the Marys who heeded his requests
And now at heaven's banquet are Jesus' fondest guests.

SERMON

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

HYMN 187 There is a wideness in God's mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice,
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven:
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader
than the grasp of mortal mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,
we would take him at his word;
and our lives be filled with glory
from the glory of the Lord.

OFFERING AND 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We give thanks for our blessings, and cry out for help for others and ourselves.

HYMN 655 For your generous providing

For your generous providing
which sustains us all our days
for your Spirit here residing
we proclaim our heartfelt praise.
Through the depths of joy and sorrow,
though the road be smooth or rough,
fearless, we can face tomorrow
for your grace will be enough.

Hush our world's seductive noises
tempting us to stand alone;
save us from the siren voices
calling us to trust our own.
For those snared by earthly treasure,
lured by false security.
Jesus, true and only measure
spring the trap to set folk free.

Round your table, through your giving,
show us how to live and pray
till your kingdom's way of living
is the bread we share each day:
bread for us and for our neighbour,
bread for body, mind and soul,
bread of heaven, and human labour
broken bread that makes us whole.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus took bread and wine, and shared them with his disciples as symbols of his life sacrificed to the cause of his ministry of love. He asked them to continue this practice in his memory. We take bread and wine as symbols of Jesus' body, broken for us, and share them with each other.

Invitation and Confession of Faith

Jesus invites us to the table. We respond by reading together a statement of what we believe authorised by the Church of Scotland's General Assembly.

All: We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating;
who has come in the true man, Jesus,
to reconcile and make new;
who works in us and others by his Spirit.**

We trust him. He calls us to be his Church:

**to celebrate his presence;
to love and serve others;
to seek justice and resist evil;
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life; in death; in life beyond death, God is with us:

**we are not alone;
thanks be to God. Amen.**

Narrative of the Institution

We hear Paul tell the story of Jesus' last supper with his disciples, and his instruction to them to repeat the meal in memory of him.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We say thank you for God's work in creation, the new life of Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit bringing us into communion as the church, Christ's body on earth.

Minister: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Minister: Generous God, thank you that you make this world marvellous for us to enjoy...

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Isaiah 6:3)

Minister: Eternal God,

Breaking of Bread

In preparation for sharing bread we break it as a symbol of Christ's body broken for us in solidarity with all broken humanity.

Communion

Minister: Jesus, Lamb of God,

All: have mercy on us.

Minister: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

All: have mercy on us.

Minister: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

All: grant us peace.

Post-communion prayer

SENDING OUT

HYMN 675 Now let us from this table rise

Now let us from this table rise
Renewed in body, mind, and soul;
With Christ we die and rise again,
His selfless love has made us whole.

With minds alert, upheld by grace,
To spread the word in speech and deed,
We follow in the steps of Christ,
At one with all in hope and need.

To fill each human house with love,
It is the sacrament of care;
The work that Christ began to do
We humbly pledge ourselves to share.

Then grant us courage, Companion-God,
To choose again the pilgrim way
And help us to accept with joy
The challenge of tomorrow's day.

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.**