

ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



2nd Sunday of Advent

Order of Service
10th of December 2023
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. After the service we have **fellowship** in the Martin Shields' Hall, please join us.

For young people, there is a **crèche** and **Sunday School** this morning. The reader this morning is: **Susanne Hope**. The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. Leading worship are **Elliot Mitchell**, a ministry student, and the **Rev. James Aitken**, the minister of St. Ninian's.

This Sunday we celebrate **The Second 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. We hear the prophecies from the past of the Messiah's coming as they are addressed to us in the present as we wait for Christ's second coming in the future. That second coming is our hope that 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.

There is a deliberate tension in the Advent season. Christ has come, and yet not all things have reached completion. While we remember Israel's waiting and hoping, and ourselves wait to celebrate Christ's birth, we look forward in hope to his coming again, preparing ourselves by committing to doing Christ's work on earth in the present.

This Sunday is our **Gift Service**. We welcome **Barbara Wells** from **Salvation Army** who will receive gifts from members of the congregation for children who would otherwise not receive any over Christmas. Barbara will also address the Sunday School during the service.

St. Ninian's uses the Revised Common Lectionary is an approved week-by-week three-year cycle of biblical readings. In 2023 we are in Year B and the principal Gospel readings come from the **Gospel of Mark**. 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 1: 76), 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.

INTROIT

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 (John 1: 5 – 7)

Reader: We light the second advent candle as we wait for the Light of the World and listen to God's messengers who proclaimed its coming.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out. God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe.

CB 12 The Voice of God goes out to all the world

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: Mark 1: 1 - 8

Pg 819

CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

CB 16 Christmas is coming (*chorus, and verses 1 & 2 only*)

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40: 1 – 11 Pg 589

ANTHEM 'In the bleak mid-winter' Darke

SERMON

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

CB 9 The race that long in darkness pined

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 807**) -*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

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

CB 3 Hark the glad sound the saviour comes

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

**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.**