

# ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



**Be on the alert, always praying for strength to pass safely through all these imminent troubles and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.  
(Luke 21: 36)**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Order of Service**

**1<sup>st</sup> of December 2024**

**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.

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.

Today, we also celebrate together the **Sacrament of Holy Communion.** Everyone is welcome to join us to share the Lord's Supper.

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 Alpha Room.

For preschool children there is a **crèche** and for primary and secondary aged children there is a **Sunday School** this morning. The primary Sunday School should go straight to their class, the secondary Sunday School leave after the second hymn.

The readers this morning are **Matthew Gray** and **Christine Miller**. The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. Leading worship is the **Rev. James Aitken** and **Emma McMillan**, our ministry student.

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 C and the principal Gospel readings come from the **Gospel of Luke**. 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** (Isaiah 52: 8), 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'.

### LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES PRESENTATIONS

We present certificates of long service to elders who have served the Church of Scotland: Peter Jamieson, Norma Gilmore, Dale Gray, Valerie Thomson, Phil Wheeler, Ruth Wimberley, Jim Byers, Derek MacGillivray, and Maureen Paton.

## APPROACH TO GOD

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent reminding us of the Old Testament hope 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 saying sorry 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: Luke 21: 25 – 36

Pg 866

CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

**HYMN 282** 'Christmas is coming' (*chorus, and verses 1*)

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

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33: 14 – 16

Pg 650

SERMON

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*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,**

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.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Jesus took bread and wine. Giving thanks, he broke the bread, sharing it and the wine with his disciples. He asked them to continue this practice to remember him. We do so by taking bread and wine, announcing them as symbols of Jesus' body broken for us. All are welcome to share the gluten-free bread and the non-alcoholic wine.*

**HYMN 275** Come now, O Prince of peace

## Invitation and Confession of Faith

*Jesus invites us to the table. We respond to that invitation by reading together a statement of what we believe, The Apostle's Creed, which connects us through three centuries to the worldwide Church.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated  
at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
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 that brings us into communion with each other and with Christ for the purpose of building Christ's body on earth, the church.*

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: you bless when we curse; you heal when we wound; you save when we are bent on being lost. Loving God, thank you that you gave Jesus as our friend to bring us to you. By our faith in him you recreate each one of us with a new life. Gracious God, thank you that in this new life your spirit draws us together in holiness, resurrecting here on earth your body, broken, but longing to be whole. By the power of that Holy Spirit may this bread and wine be for us the body and blood of your Son so that we may become his living body, loving and caring for the world. Now, gracious God, as an act of memorial, thanksgiving and commitment we follow the example Jesus set for us, and with your people of all places and all times, and with the whole company of heaven we proclaim your greatness and sing your praises in the angels' song:

**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. (Is. 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

*The elements of communion are in the pews. Please follow the instructions from the minister and serve yourself the bread followed by the wine. If you do not wish to take part pass the elements to your neighbour.*

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.**

Minister: Jesus said, 'Come to me, all who are weary and whose load is heavy; I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble-hearted; and you will find rest for your souls.' (Mt 11: 28 – 29).

Post-communion prayer

## SENDING OUT

## 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.**

# **CHRISTMAS at ST. NINIAN'S**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 11:00am – 1:00pm**  
**Friendly Corner Christmas Get-Together**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 10:30am**  
**Family Nativity Service**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 6:30pm**  
**Nine Lessons and Carols**  
(Mulled wine & mince pies following the service)

**Christmas Eve, 4:00pm**  
**Christingle at St. Anne's Parish Church**

**Christmas Eve, 8:00pm**  
**Worship for Christmas Night**  
(Christmas Songs and Carols from 7:30pm.  
Tea & Coffee following the service)

**Christmas Day, 10:30am**  
**Family Worship for Christmas Day**  
(Hot chocolate from 10:00am)

