

ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



Nativity Service

Order of Service

22nd 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. After the service we have **fellowship** in the Martin Shields' Hall, please join us.

The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. **Rev. James Aitken** is the minister of St. Ninian's, **Emma McMillan** is a ministry student attached to St. Ninian's. This morning the children of the **Sunday School** will be leading worship.

This Sunday we celebrate **The Third 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.

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.

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

ENTRANCE

The service begins with a **sentence from the Bible** (Zechariah 2: 10), 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'.

CB 37 See him lying on a bed of straw

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, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**

We light the fourth Advent candle

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

CB 16 Christmas is coming (*4 verses and 4 choruses*)

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, 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.

CB 40 While humble shepherds watched their flocks

NATIVITY PLAY

Newsflash Nativity

- Reporter:** Breaking news from Bethlehem, we have just heard that a new king has been born right here. The story began last night when a young couple came looking for accommodation for the night. I have some local innkeepers here who can tell us more. Good morning - can you tell us what happened?
- Innkeeper** This young couple were looking for a room. She was heavily pregnant, but we have no rooms available because of the census. Don't they realise this is our busiest night!
- Innkeeper 2** We've no room – had the decorators in! We're upgrading to five stars.
- Innkeeper** I felt sorry for them. They looked exhausted, especially that poor girl! We were only able to offer them the stable out the back – at least the donkey was comfortable
- Reporter** Well at least they had somewhere to shelter for the night. Now let's hear from some shepherds who were working in the fields. I understand they saw something interesting. Can you tell us what happened?
- Shepherd 1** Well we were just minding our own business when this angel appeared and told us a baby had been born – a king for all time!
- Shepherd 2** Yes it was amazing – we didn't know what to think
- Shepherd 3** But we just had to come and see for ourselves
- Reporter** Wow that's amazing. We'll be back here in Bethlehem after this break
- CB 29** It was on a starry night
- Reporter** Welcome back – I have with me now some kings who have more to tell us. Hello can you tell us how you ended up here?
- King 1** We heard about the birth of God's son in Bethlehem
- King 2** We followed a star to get here
- King 3** We brought him gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh
- Reporter:** Thanks for that - finally let's hear from some people who can shed some light on this whole affair.

Angel comes on

- Reporter:** Can you tell us what happened?
- Angel:** Yes, Jesus, Lord of all, was born in Bethlehem. This was recorded for all time in the Bible, the Word of the Lord.

Reporter:

Well, thank you everyone. This is a real story – which will be told forever and will have a lasting impact on the world - let's now hear for ourselves the passage which the angels referred to - **Luke Chapter 2 verses 1-20.**

This is Aidan Aitken for St Ninians News, Bethlehem.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 1 – 20

page 841

CB 19

Away in a manger

READING

I Count the Days to Christmas

CB 26

Infant holy, infant lowly

PRAYER

CB 45

Come and join the celebration

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.**