

# ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



## EASTER SUNDAY

**Order of Service**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 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.

For children there is a **crèche** but no Sunday School. Visiting children are welcome. The reader is **Sheonagh Richards**. The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. The minister leading worship is **Rev. James Aitken**. **Elliot Mitchell**, a ministry student, will be preaching the sermon.

The season of **Easter** begins today. The Easter morning service is a time of joy, celebration, and renewal as all the hopes and expectations of Christians are realised in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and his ongoing life in the world through the Church, his resurrected body on earth today. Easter morning is only the first of 50 days of **Easter tide** that lead to Pentecost (this year on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May). Eastertide is a season of extended celebration exploring the ramifications of Jesus' resurrection for the redemption of all creation, and for joyful Christian living.

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 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** (Acts 13: 32, 33), 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

In Christ alone

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

Minister: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

Congregation:: **Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

### HYMN 410

Jesus Christ is risen today

### 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: John 20: 1 – 18

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### HYMN 430

Christ has risen while earth slumbers

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 118: 1 – 2, 14 – 24

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## **ANTHEM**

Sing Aloud

Ode to Joy

## SERMON

### OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

## **HYMN 429**

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

## 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.*

### SENDING OUT

## **HYMN 419**

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son

## 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.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

**HYMN 417**    Now the green blade riseth

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3: 1 – 4

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### INVITATION & CONFESSION OF FAITH

Minister: We stand in the resurrection garden of God; a place suffused and shaped by love, and ripe with its potential. So, come to this table whether you have seen and believed, or are dubious and doubting still; whether you confess confidently, or with a fragile, fearful heart. Come and share these gifts of grace. Encounter Christ, be healed by Love, and transformed by Life. Come, and let us confess our faith.

**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.**

### DEDICATION OF BREAD & WINE

Minister: Arise now, Spirit of God, breathe on these bodily things; grain of the earth, fruit of the vine. In so doing, baptise us with that same Holy Spirit, touching and healing all that has been buried in us so that we need not cling to our pain, but go forth from here to release resurrection in the world.

**All:        Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & NARRATIVE OF THE INSTITUTION

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**Congregation: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Minister: Loving God, you made this world lovely for us to enjoy. You told us that Jesus is our friend, and that his life shows us how to live our lives. The Spirit of his life lives on amongst us today, making us one body in Jesus Christ, the Church. For sharing your world with us we say thank you, and we join together with your people of all places and all times in this joyful hymn of praise,

**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.**

Minister: Loving God, thank you for Jesus' birth; his life on earth; his suffering for us; and this morning thank you for his triumph over death. His life and his message were not defeated by death, but are vindicated in the ongoing life of his church. As an act of memorial to him and as a sign of his ongoing, resurrected, life we follow his command when on the night of his arrest, taking bread, he broke it and gave thanks to God, saying, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in memory of me." In the same way, he took the cup after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me."

Lord God move us with a spirit of holiness so that when these gifts of bread and wine are consumed by us, this bread, which we break, may be a symbol of the communion of the body of Christ, and this cup, which we drink, a symbol of the communion of the blood of Christ. So Christ is resurrected in our time. May the body and blood of Christ nourish us and help us to grow in faith to the glory of your most holy name.

**All: Christ has died.  
Christ has risen.  
Christ will come again.**

## SHARING OF 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

**HYMN 416** Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

## BENEDICTION