

# ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



"I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any..."  
"Leave it sir..., and if it bears fruit next season, well and good; if not, you shall  
have it down." (Luke 13: 7, 8, 9)

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

**Order of Service**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2025**  
**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 is the **Third Sunday of Lent**, the season of the Christian year during which we prepare to commemorate Jesus' Passion and celebrate his resurrection. Lent lasts forty days (not counting Sundays), and this year it began on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March (Ash Wednesday). It ends on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April (Good Friday). Lent represents a journey. We travel with Jesus from Galilee, where he ministered, to Jerusalem, the place of his crucifixion and resurrection. This journey is an opportunity for us to prepare for the events of Holy Week and for the transformative event of Easter by reflecting on what we need to sacrifice in our lives and in the world that separates us and the world from God, and holding back the people of the world from living life in all its fulness. As we do so we look forward to living new lives beyond Easter as people who believe in the hope contained in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Son.

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, the Alpha Room.

There is a **crèche** and a primary **Sunday School** this morning. The reader this morning is **Laura Langdon**. 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** (Luke 3: 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'.*

## APPROACH TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 55:1 – 9)

LEADER: Let us incline our ears and come to the Lord,

**ALL: We listen that we may live.**

LEADER: Let us seek the Lord while He may be found,

**ALL: We call upon Him while he is near.**

LEADER: Let us return to the Lord that He might have mercy on us.

**ALL: For God abundantly pardons all.**

**HYMN 63** (Psalm 100) All people that on earth do dwell

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: Luke 13: 1 – 9

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CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

**HYMN 212** Morning has broken

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

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 55: 1 – 9

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**ANTHEM** 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace'

- R. Redman

SERMON

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

**HYMN 555** Amazing Grace

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 402**) -*

**'Take up your cross,' the Saviour said,  
'if you would my disciple be;  
Take up your cross, with willing heart,  
And humbly follow after me.'**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

*We give thanks for our blessings, and cry out for help for others and ourselves. During the prayers this response is sung periodically:*

**HYMN 776** Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison  
(*trans: Lord, have mercy*)

## SENDING OUT

(based on Psalm 63:1-8)

### **HYMN 404**

I danced in the morning

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.**