

**St. Ninian's Parish Church
Corstorphine**



A service of nine lessons and carols
(Christmas through Scripture)

SUNDAY, 22nd DECEMBER 2024
6:30pm

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 40:3)

CAROL 35 Once in Royal David's City

WELCOME

CHOIR Ding Dong! Merrily

GATHERING PRAYER

READING 1 Genesis 3: 1 - 7, 20 – 24 page 2 **James Aitken**
The Christmas story, a journey from darkness to light, begins with the book of Genesis. God first created light, but the people of His creation discovered the difference between light and darkness, good and evil; striving for the former, but living at the whim of the latter.

CHOIR Christmas Lullaby

READING 2 Isaiah 9: 2 – 7 page 564 **Jim Hunter**
God sought to lead people out of darkness into light. Isaiah imagines a time when a "wonderful, God-like Prince of peace" shall do this.

CAROL 27 In the Bleak Midwinter

READING 3 Isaiah 11: 1 – 10 page 566 **Emma McMillan**
On this journey out of darkness, the Messiah will lead with justice and righteousness.

CHOIR Tiny Babe

READING 4 Micah 5: 2 – 5 page 762 **Christine Miller**
This saviour will be born in Bethlehem, and will be a shepherd to his people.

CHOIR Bethlehem Wind

READING 5 Luke 1: 26 – 36 page 839 **Fiona Coutts**
Having prepared us for Jesus' birth, the readings now move into a description of that highlights its special character.

CAROL 33 O little town of Bethlehem

READING 6 Luke 2: 1 – 7 page 841 **Donna Short**
Most stories of famous people emphasise their greatness, but the story of this famous person emphasises his ordinariness. The journey from darkness to light is not one corrupted by power and prestige.

CHOIR Rejoice and be Merry

READING 7 Luke 2: 8 – 16 page 841 **Aidan Aitken**
To emphasise the purpose of Jesus' birth, those who first hear of it are themselves ordinary people - perhaps even the poorest of the poor.

CAROL 39 The First Nowell

READING 8 Matthew 2: 1 – 12. page 789 **Phil Wheeler**
Jesus' humble birth, and the announcement of it to ordinary people, makes the rich and the powerful feel subservient and threatened.

CHOIR Lullay

READING 9 John 1: 1 – 14. page 872 **Emma McMillan**
If God is born into the world as an ordinary baby in humble circumstances, what does that say about the value of each of our lives?

CHOIR Ragtime Carol

SENDING OUT PRAYERS

CAROL 25 Hark the herald angels sing!

BENEDICTION

EXTROIT (CHOIR) On Christmas Night

Please join us after the service for mulled wine and mince pies in the Martin Sheild's Hall.

CHRISTMAS at ST. NINIAN'S

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)



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