

**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
AND EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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**Minister: The Revd Neil Gardner MA BD DL
Organist: Mr Simon Leach FISM GMus RNCM**



**Sunday 22nd December 2024
4th Sunday of Advent**

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Pastorale* from the *Christmas Concerto* by Corelli

OPENING SENTENCE Rejoice, daughter of Zion! I am coming, I shall make
my dwelling among you, says the Lord. *Zechariah 2: 10*

HYMN 315

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her Baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

(Irby)

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor and meek and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him
through his own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
where his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

BIDDING PRAYER

HYMN 304

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in your streets is shining
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.

(Forest Green)

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

READING

The birth of Jesus is foretold

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

CHOIR

Lord you were poor (*Quelle est cette odeur agréable?*)

HYMN 312

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, (*Cradle Song*)
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes,
I love you Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

READING	<i>The birth of Jesus</i>	St Luke 2:1-7
CHOIR	In the bleak midwinter	(<i>Harold Darke</i>)
HYMN (CH3)	Angel voices, richly blending, shepherds to the manger sending, sing of peace from heav'n descending! Shepherds, greet your Shepherd-King! Lo! a star is brightly glowing! Eastern Kings their gifts are showing to the King whose gifts pass knowing! Gentiles, greet the Gentiles' King! To the manger come adoring, hearts in thankfulness outpouring to the child, true peace restoring, Mary's Son, our God and King!	(<i>Quem pastores</i>)
CHAMBER ORGAN	In dulci jubilo	(<i>Franz Liszt</i>)
READING	<i>The shepherds and the angels</i>	St Luke 2:8-19
CHOIR	Angels' Carol	(<i>John Rutter</i>)
READING	<i>The wise men follow the star</i>	St Matthew 2:1-11
HYMN 301	Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the new-born King, peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!' Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies, with the angelic hosts proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem'. <i>Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the new-born King'.</i>	(<i>Mendelssohn</i>)

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the Incarnate Deity,
pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King'.*

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lay his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King'.*

(Please remain standing)

READING *The mystery of the Incarnation* St John 1: 1 – 14

OFFERING 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

HYMN 306 O come, all ye faithful, *(Adeste Fideles)*
joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God
in the highest':
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

THE BENEDICTION

ends with sung Amen

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729 by J. S. Bach



Christmas Eve 11.30pm

Watchnight Service

Christmas Day 10.30am

Family Service

Sunday 29th December 10.30am

Holy Communion

Welcome to Canongate Kirk. This morning we extend a special welcome to all visitors - please join us in the foyer for tea and coffee after the service. We are glad to be joined by friends from the Edinburgh Royal Warrant Holders Association. Please be aware we have an induction loop system for the benefit of those who use hearing aids. A livestreamed video of today's service is available on our website www.canongatekirk.org.uk - feel free to share the link. The December/January edition of our **monthly newsletter** is available on the website and paper copies can be found at the back of the church. If you would like to receive it by e-mail, please get in touch with the office. A reminder that we have a limited stock of Canongate **Christmas cards** available for last minute purchase. Don't forget to save postage stamps at home and bring them to the box at the back of the church in due course. Please note there is no evening service next Sunday.

Canongate Kirk Christmas Appeal This year we are supporting the Moderator's Christmas Challenge 'Let Your Little Light Shine', enabling the work of the Church of Central Africa to provide solar power, through light libraries in CCAP Primary Schools and solar panels for the new PhD centre at Zomba Theological University. A solar light costs just £10. The appeal will run via retiring offerings at all our services from TODAY through to next Sunday, 29th December. Alternatively, donations may be sent to the Kirk Office or please visit <https://bit.ly/41uZP6n>

Kirkyard Winter Tours Local historian and guide, Eric Drake, will resume his fascinating range of tours during five successive days from Sunday 29th December up to and including Thursday 2nd January. Each tour explores a different theme with the first focusing on Canongate Kirk's royal connections from David I to Charles III including legends and facts, royal gifts, royal servants and more. Tours start at the front of the kirk at 12 noon and last about an hour. Tours are free but donations to kirk funds are welcome. Pick up a flyer at the back of the church for more information.

Washbags for Crisis at Christmas Thank you to everyone who has helped to amass a great collection of washbags under the Christmas tree. These will be collected shortly and distributed in time for Christmas.

BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship The recent edition of the programme by the ministers of St Giles' and Canongate will remain available on BBC Sounds until the New Year <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0025m6l>

FWO Envelopes for 2025 These are now ready for collection from the vestibule of the church. If you don't have weekly free will offering envelopes at the moment, but would like them, please get in touch with the Treasurer, Jenifer Davidson. Many of our members now give directly, for which we are very grateful, and if anyone would like to discuss this option please also have a word with Jenifer.

December Day

I ask no lovelier thing
Than this December silver:
See how the light flakes off the new-turned plough
Under the slow great swing
Of branches, silver-boled;
Not all the silken, tender ways of spring
Can over-pass this cold
And windy beauty; see
Where thin-blown ripples spreading
Pattern the water with a mesh of gold.
Not war, nor present misery,
Can rout earth's ageless peace
Or check the steady rhythm of her soil
To yield and year's increase.
Yet sun in earth, yet love in man works on,
And shall not cease.

Dorothy Margaret Paulin (1904 – 1982)

*From the 2024 edition of Scottish Religious Poetry edited by
Linden Bicket, Emma Dymock and Alison Jack (Saint Andrew Press)*