

# ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly...”

(Luke 21: 34)

## First Sunday of Advent

Order of Service

28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

10.30am

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**First Sunday of Advent**

<http://www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk> and on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/stninianschurch/>

Good morning and welcome to everyone who has joined us on-line 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.'**

Sunday morning worship is held in the sanctuary at 10:30, and online on Facebook and YouTube:

<https://www.facebook.com/stninianschurch/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW-OUJ0F3JLO9vUD7KYMffA>

In the sanctuary, please wear a face covering and follow the directions of the stewards. You should have received a sign-in slip when you arrived. There are pens in the pew, please complete the slip and post it in the box as you leave.

This Sunday we celebrate **The First 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. We hear the prophecies from the past of the Messiah's coming as they are addressed to us in the present as we wait for Christ's second coming in the future. That second coming is our hope that 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.

There is a deliberate tension in the Advent season. Christ has come, and yet not all things have reached completion. While we remember Israel's waiting and hoping, and ourselves wait to celebrate Christ's birth, we look forward in hope to his coming again, preparing ourselves by committing to doing Christ's work on earth in the present.

For children there is a **crèche** and a **Sunday School** for children. Visiting children are feel free to join in, please ask those on the door for guidance. The minister leading worship this morning is **Rev. James Aitken**. **Shahrukh Gill**, a ministry student attached to St. Ninian's, will be assisting in worship. The organist (and pianist for the online service) is **Anne Kirkpatrick**.

St. Ninian's uses the Revised Common Lectionary is an approved week-by-week three-year cycle of biblical readings. 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

WELCOME, INTIMATIONS and SHARING OF THE PEACE

*We welcome one another with Christ's words 'Peace be with you'.*

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

*We light one candle to remind us of the prophets, who believed in God during dark days and looked forward to the coming of the Christ.*

APPROACH TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP (Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16)

**HYMN 273** O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe:

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave:

O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery:

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

## PRAYERS OF APPROACH, 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**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 21: 25 - 36 (New Revised Standard Version)

<sup>25</sup> 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 25: 1 - 10 (New Revised Standard Version)

<sup>1</sup> To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.

<sup>3</sup> Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

- <sup>6</sup> Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.
- <sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!
- <sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- <sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.
- <sup>10</sup> All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

## **HYMN 479** View the present through the promise

View the present through the promise,  
Christ will come again.  
Trust despite the deepening darkness,  
Christ will come again.  
Lift the world above its grieving  
through your watching and believing  
in the hope past hope's conceiving:  
Christ will come again.

Probe the present with the promise,  
Christ will come again.  
Let your daily actions witness,  
Christ will come again.  
Let your loving and your giving  
and your justice and forgiving  
be a sign to all the living:  
Christ will come again.

Match the present to the promise,  
Christ will come again.  
Make this hope your guiding premise,  
Christ will come again.  
Pattern all your calculating  
and the world you are creating  
to the advent you are waiting:  
Christ will come again.

## **ANTHEM**

SERMON

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

### **HYMN 475** Christ is coming!

Christ is coming! Let creation  
from her groans and travail cease;  
let the glorious proclamation  
hope restore and faith increase:  
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!  
Come now blessed Prince of Peace.

Earth can now but tell the story  
of your bitter cross and pain;  
she shall yet behold your glory,  
Lord when you return to reign:  
Come Lord Jesus, come again!  
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!

Long your exiles have been pining,  
far from you, and rest, and home:  
but, in heavenly glory shining,  
soon their loving Lord shall come:  
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!  
Haste the joyous jubilee.

With that blessed hope before us,  
harps be played and songs be sung  
let the mighty advent chorus  
onward roll from tongue to tongue:  
"Christ is coming! Christ is coming!  
Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!"

### OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Freely given, our offering supports the work of Christ's church and symbolises our spiritual dedication to the growing of the Kingdom of God.*

### PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING and INTERCESSION

*We give thanks for our blessings, and cry out for help for others and ourselves.*

## SENDING OUT

**HYMN 477** Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
Christ the Lamb, for sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending,  
join to sing the glad refrain:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him  
Robed in dreadful majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
Shall the true Messiah see.

Those deep wounds of cross and passion  
Still His glorious body bears;  
Cause of endless exultation  
To His ransomed worshippers;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
See! the day of God appears.

Yea, Amen! let all adore Thee,  
High on your eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
Claim the kingdom for your own;  
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!  
Alleluia! Come, Lord, Come!

## 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.