



# St Nicholas Church, Sighthill

## Christmas Day Service

**10:30am**

After all the waiting, and watching for the signs all the anticipation and excitement, This is the moment - Immanuel - God is with us.

### **Lighting the candles**

'While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.' (Luke 2:6,7)

Beneath the surface of your story is an inescapable fact. You entered this world as vulnerable as any one of us in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross. Our fears, our insecurities and our sins all that can separate us from God exchanged by your Grace for Love. We cannot comprehend the reasoning, only marvel that Salvation comes to us through a baby born in a stable, who reaches out to a world in need.

### **Prayer of approach**

Come softly, come eagerly, come in wonder, come in adoration, come with Joy, come and see Immanuel – God with us.

### **Carol: The hope of Christmas**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80Du61ta-AU&t=10s>

### **Prayer of Confession.**

We have been preparing for your coming Jesus. Advent is such a very busy time with cards to send, presents to buy Food to prepare, Carols to sing. Forgive us that we have been so caught up with the hurly burly of Christmas activity that our energy and enthusiasm has often been sapped, and has left us with little desire to do more.

But now is the moment, and the day is upon us. And we are here, with renewed energy, ready to celebrate your birth. We stand in wonder with the Shepherds. We Kneel in adoration by the wisemen from the East, and we sing with all the company of Heaven.

We come as individuals, families, church and as a community. We come in peace and in wonder, and in this moment, we take time to delight at this greatest of gifts; a baby, not wrapped in Christmas paraphernalia, but naked and vulnerable, looking to us for food, shelter clothing and love.

Help us Lift our eyes to see beyond the crib, and to see you in the needs of the world around us.

### **Carol: In the bleak mid-winter**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KWZibNDfDI&t=20s>

### **Christmas – A time for... ?**

A child ran in shouting, "Christmas is coming!" "Yes" I said, "but what do you see coming?" "Presents!" the child replied. A time to give and receive, I thought. "And Lovely coloured lights".

Four purple candles around a bright and shining King, I thought. The child had set me thinking, what is Christmas for?

Christmas now, is a time for family's and Children. Christmas first, was a pregnant journey, slow, cold and dangerous. Christmas now, can be lonely for singles and accentuates the isolation of the disadvantaged poor.

Christmas first, was the birth of a child to a carpenter and his caring wife. Now, almost taken over by blatant commercialism and Raz-Ma-Taz!

Then, almost unknown, except for a few shepherds who believed that something special had happened, and came to see ... a child! Now, a time to party, eat and holiday with friends and family.

Then ... amazingly, three wise men came trekking from the east, seeking a King they did not know, nor where he was to be born. Yet found him. Now ... surely Christmas is a time to think, to share, a time to seek new hope!

Then, two elderly prophets saw this child and recognised God's saviour to mankind, Israel's hope! Now ... this child when full grown was crucified for being; too good, caring, loving and hating evil and corruption.

Then ... he died on a wooden cross for love of me and you. Now, he is alive and lives to bless his followers.

Then ... what will you do, this Christmas time?

## Prayers of Intercession.

All over the world, this is a day of celebration for rejoicing and feasting. But we need to remember today amidst all the joy and celebration that there are those whose hearts are heavy.

- For those who will not be celebrating today because they have lost touch with their families, who wish it could be different, but recrimination and regret lie heavy and taking the first step towards reconciliation is difficult.
- For those who are on their own this Christmas with just memories to keep them company, whose families seem incomplete, and their contemporaries diminishing by the years.
- For those who have lost a child and whose memories of loss are heightened by reference to happy children and family celebration.
- For those who are in prison, trying to make the best of it, and their families who feel the punishment of waiting, for those who are far away, in war zones, keeping an uneasy watch
- And those who wait at home, with anxious hearts.
- For those who are in homeless shelters off the streets for a few days, given a feast by the goodwill of others.
- For those who grieve that there is an empty place at the table this year and that next year will be the same.
- And for all those people around the world who can only dream of feast, and who will never know what it is like to feel full, but nevertheless feast on family care and welcome.
- For those who have survived disasters but faced with loss, can only imagine what might have been.

God whose name is love, t'was ever thus. You came to turn the world upside down. May we help you in that task, whatever that may mean for us

## Final Prayer

Circle us, Lord, circle us with the light of your presence, bright within this dark world. Enable us to be overcomers of fear and temptation. Enable us to be victors over sin and despair. Enable us to become that which you would desire. Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation. Circle us with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord, circle our family within the shelter of your outstretched arms.

Protect them in each moment of their daily lives. Protect them in the decisions that they face. Protect their homes and relationships. Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation. Circle our families with the light of your presence.

Circle us, Lord. Circle this nation with Advent love and hope. Create a desire to listen to the Advent message. Create a willingness to understand and respond. Create a need to reach out to the Christ Child. Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation. Circle our nation with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord. Circle this world with the joy of your Salvation. Where there is sickness and disease bring healing. Where there is hunger and despair bring hope. Where there is torture and oppression bring release. Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation. Circle this world with the light of your presence

## Carol: O Come all ye faithful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5GRcPanpbQ&t=215s>

## Wishing one another a Merry Christmas

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vdXR\\_igALU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vdXR_igALU)

## Benediction

The Prince of Peace

Peace in a baby who lies in a manger.

Peace through the parents who welcome each stranger.

Peace, though a child is in imminent danger.

Peace from the Prince of Peace.

Peace for the shepherds who ran down to greet him.

Peace for the Magi, come, star-led, to meet him.

Peace for the soldiers sent out to defeat him.

Peace from the Prince of Peace.

Peace was his gift to disciples in sorrow.

Peace is that gift none can beg, steal, or borrow.

Peace for today and new hope for tomorrow.

Peace from the Prince of Peace.

