

Welcome to the
Parish Church of St Mark
Serving Broomhill & Broomhall
Living Thinking Loving Faith

Advent 2

Sunday 7 December 2025 at 10.00 am

Gathering

Introit: Sleepers Wake!

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 47)

Sleepers wake! A voice is calling, it is the watchman on the walls: Thou city of Jerusalem. For lo! The Bridegroom comes. Arise, and take your lamps! Hallelujah! Awake! His kingdom is at hand. Go forth, go forth to meet your Lord.

Welcome

The President is Revd. Dr Mark Newitt The Deacon is Jonathan Williamson The Preacher is Jonathan Williamson

Welcome

Please do not take photos or videos during the service.

Advent Carol

Bang the drum and sing the chorus.

Fa la la la la la...

Advent joy is now before us.

Fa la la...

For our God by incarnation,

Fa la la...

comes to birth for every nation.

Fa la la...

Here's the Baptist by the river.

Fa la la la la...

John made wicked people shiver.

Fa la la la...

Was he fearsome? No, much tougher:

Fa la la la...

he spoke up for those who suffer.

Fa la la la...

Now our Advent Candle's burning, Fa la la... and our hearts so full of yearning Fa la la... long to see the light of glory Fa la la... shine on us from Jesus' story. Fa la la...

Nick Jowett
Tune: Deck the Hall

Prayers of Approach

May God be with you:

and also with you.

People of God: awake!

The day is coming when we shall see God face to face.

God calls us out of darkness to walk in the light of eternity.

We are God's children.

Make us one in the hope of Christ today and for ever.

Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

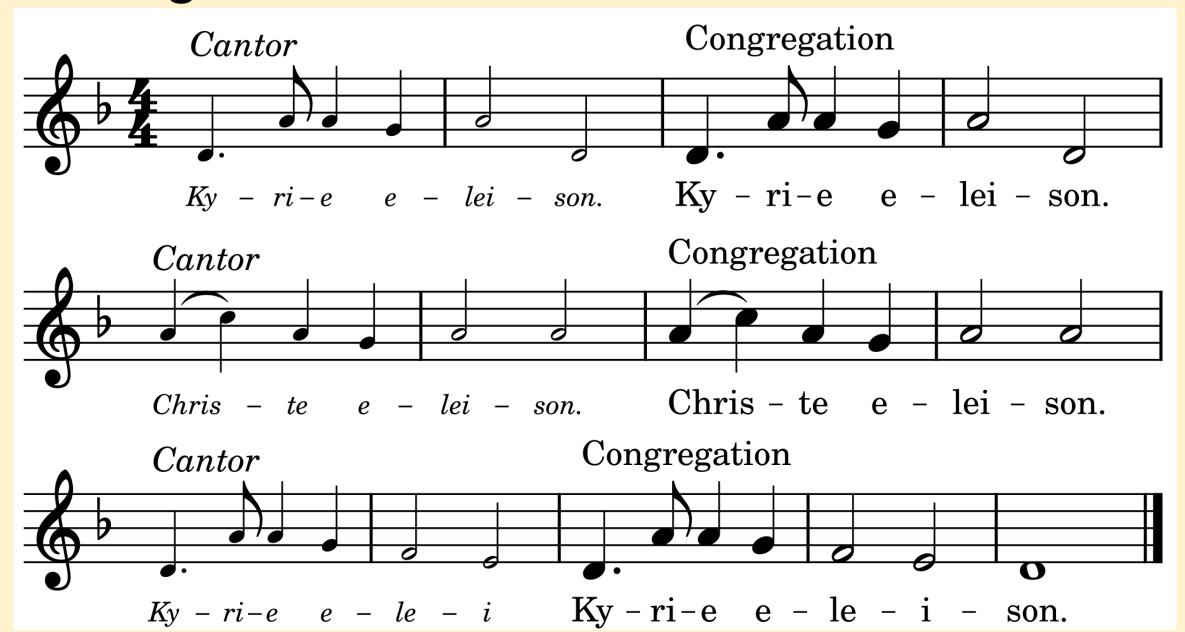
As we look for signs of the coming of Christ, we acknowledge our part in the sin of the world.

Time of silence.

We sing the Bridget setting of the Kyrie by John Bell

(b.1949)

We sing



When we fail to see you in the needs of our neighbours: forgive us, O God.

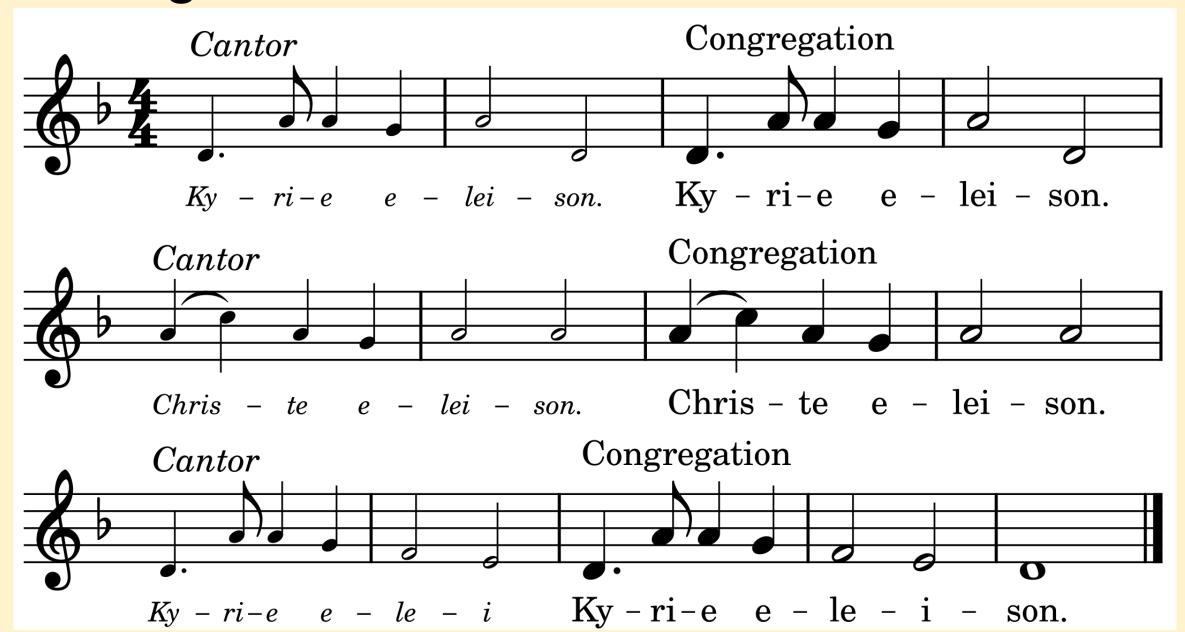
When we are complicit in the exploitation of the earth's resources: have mercy, O God.

When we despair and lose hope that we can help bring about change in your world: forgive us, O God.

When we fail to act with justice and when what we do impacts adversely on others: have mercy, O God.

When we think we have done enough forgive us, O God.

We sing



God who took our human nature forgive you for all you have said, done and failed to do, and fit you for eternal life now and forever.

Amen.

The Collect

Loving God, As we seek your presence amongst us today, inspire us through your Holy Spirit to be active in your service and joyful in your praise; that like your messengers who proclaimed justice, truth, respect and dignity where they were denied or violated, we too may take action to end oppression and secure human rights for all your people. Shan Rush Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Attending

First Reading: Isaiah 11.1-10
Page 650 Old Testament, NRSVA
Read By Arthur Button

At the end the reader says: How do these words speak to us today?

After the reading we share a time of quiet

Gradual Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings from the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every breast from sin, make straight the way for God within; prepare we in our hearts a home where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward. Without thy grace we waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand.

Shine forth and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent doth thy people free, whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Ghost, for evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin (1676 - 1749) trans. John Chandler (1806 - 76), Music: from Musikalisches Handbook (1690) Tune: Winchester New

Gospel Matthew 3.1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Preacher: Jonathan Williamson

Time to reflect.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; where fear and courage join hands, and the sun rises over barbed wire. We believe in a God who sits down in our midst, sharing our humanity.

We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place, into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope.

Maranatha, come Lord Jesus.

Prayers of the People Led by Eve Saunders

May we hear your call to engage with the world, May we become the change we want to see.

At the end

Amen

Greeting of Peace

In the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. We meet in Christ's name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

We share a sign of Christ's peace.

Offertory Hymn

The kingdom of God is justice and joy, for Jesus restores what sin would destroy; God's power and glory in Jesus we know, and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace, the captives are freed, the sinners find place; the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share, and hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice, believe the good news, repent and rejoice! His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross, our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal, in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole; the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call, and all things cry glory to God all in all!

Text: Bryn Rees (1911 - 1983), Music: Melody and bass by William Croft (1678 - 1727) in A Supplement to the New Version (1708) Tune: Hanover

Abiding

Preparation

Blessed are you, O God; through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May they be for us the foretaste of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our gracious God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

God of our longing, God of our hoping, it is good and right to praise you.

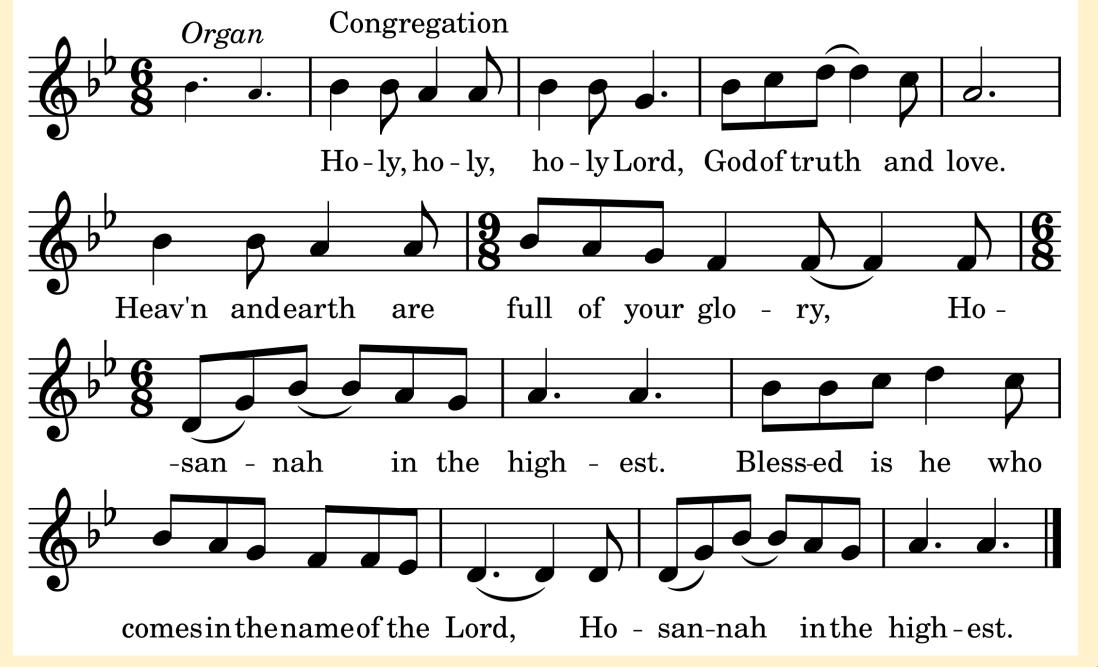
From the time of our forebears you have journeyed with those who seek you in openness and trust.

You inspired prophets to pursue justice, to challenge the mighty and liberate the oppressed.

Through John the baptiser you taught us to lament our wrongdoings and return to the way of forgiveness.

In Mary, the mother of faith, you draw us into your passion and reveal your peace.

With them, and with all who wait on you in hope, it is good and right to praise you, and so we sing:



Text and music Eve Saunders

Above all, we give you thanks for revealing your salvation in Jesus Christ. In him, we see the person you long for us to be, through him, we feed on your wisdom and truth, with him, we embrace your kingdom causes.

And now, in obedience to his command, it is our duty and our joy, to remember the night he gave himself up and was handed over to death.

In the company of his friends,
Jesus took bread,
blessed it in God's holy name,
broke it and gave it to them, saying,
This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this to remember me.

Later, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks, and offered it to them, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, Do this to remember me.

God of our longing, God of our hoping, breathe your life-giving Spirit into this bread and wine that all who partake of this communion may feed on Christ and taste his sacred hunger for a world renewed by your promises and fulfilled through your love. Amen.

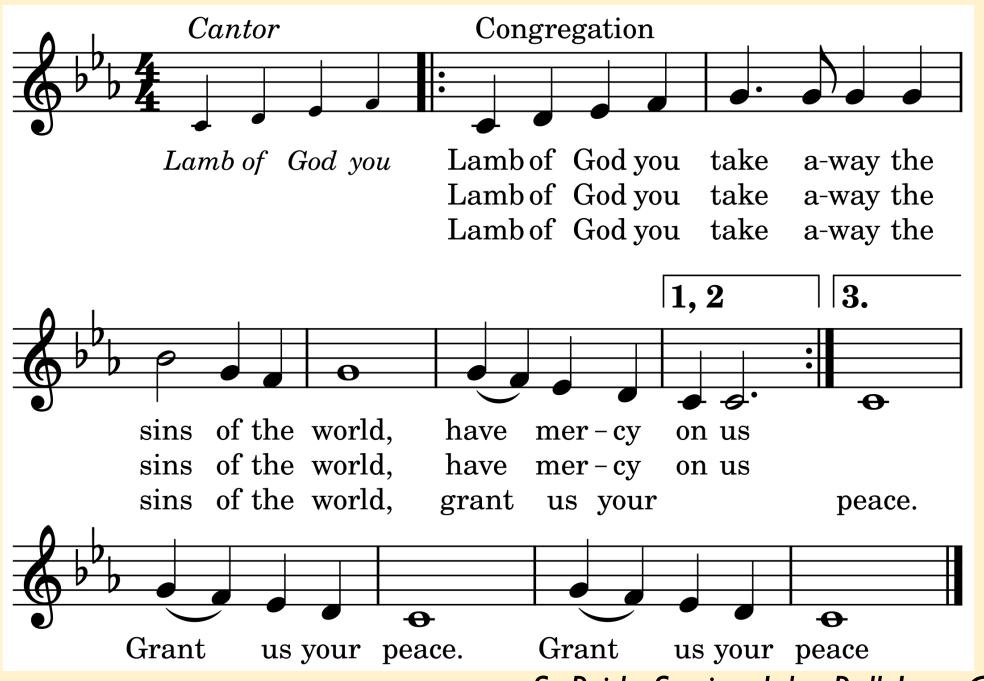
Ian Wallis

Lord's Prayer & Communion

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The bread is broken

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

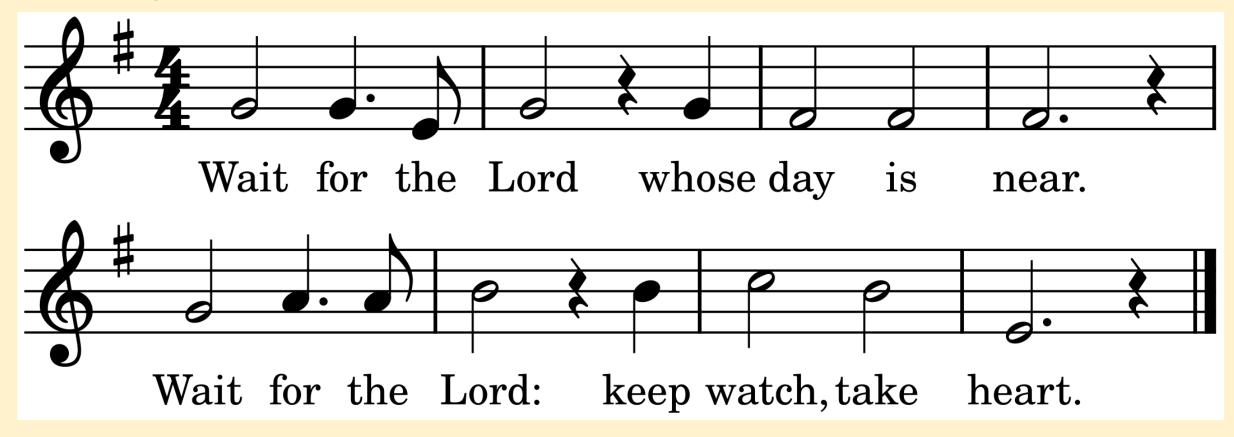


St Bride Setting, John Bell, Iona Community

Words of invitation follow

Come, all who are weary and heavy-laden; come, all who are dancing with joy; come to the table where sorrow and celebration belong together.

During Communion the congregation is invited to sing:



Text and music: Jacques Berthier (1923, 94)

The Choir sing Here is the Little Door By Herbert Nowells (1892-1983)

Here is the little door: Lift up the latch, oh lift! We need not wander more But enter with our gift; Our gift of finest gold. Gold that was never bought or sold; Myrrh to be strewn about his bed; Incense in clouds about His head; All for the child that stirs not in His sleep But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep. Bend low about His bed: For each He has a gift; See how His eyes awake! Lift up your hands, O lift! For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword (Defend with it thy little Lord!) For incense, smoke of battle red; Myrrh for the honoured happy dead; Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet; Touched by such tiny hands And Oh such tiny feet.

Prayer of Commitment

Grant us grace, O God, to see through your eyes of compassion, to speak your words of justice and peace, to embody your forgiveness that what we hope for, long for, strive for, may come a little closer, bringing healing in its wings; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

To support the ministry of this church please use the card reader at the back of church or visit the website for more options.

Thank you.

Blessing

May the God who brings heaven close to earth give truth to our judgement and flame to our longing that our hearts might be ready to be born again in love; And the blessing of God, creator, saviour, spirit of peace rest upon you, and all whom you love, both living and departed, now and always.

Amen.

Steven Shakespeare

Final Hymn

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light, sun of righteousness arise, triumph o'er the shades of night; dayspring from on high be near, daystar in my heart appear. Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee; joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see, till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief; fill me, radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief; more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

Text: Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788),

Music: from Johann Gottlob Werner's Choralbuch, Leipzig (1815)

Tune: Ratisbon 56

Commission

God of our longing, God of our hoping: **Eagerly we seek you.**

Go in peace to prepare God's way: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Voluntary **Fughetta on 'Gottes Sohn ist kommen'**JS Bach (1685 - 1750)

Friendship Time

Refreshments are served at the end of the service, please stay if you can.

For those on Zoom, we hold a breakout group after the voluntary to which you are welcome.

Christmas Card Stalls - Today

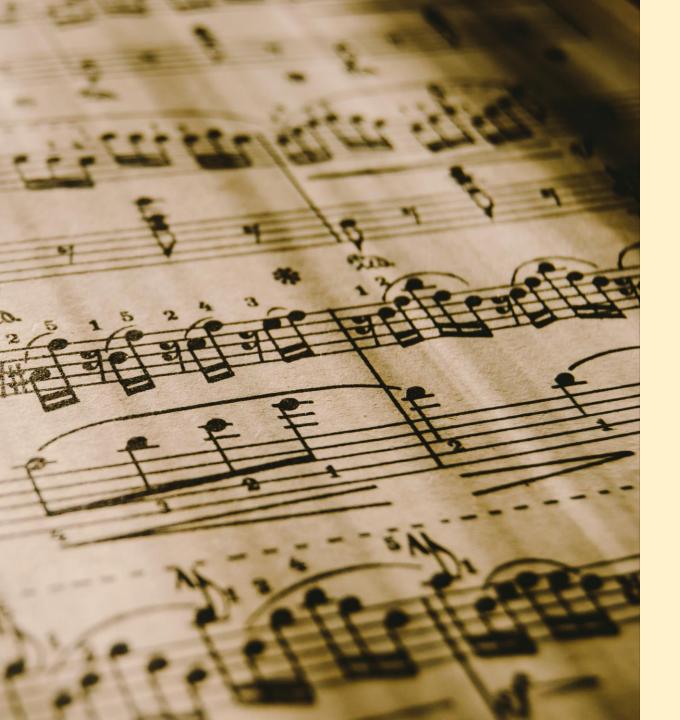
International Committee Stall

Fair Trade cards and goods for Christmas

Amnesty Table

Find out about the Write for Rights Campaign and write your card **





Coffee concert
11:45 to 12:15
today

THINKING FAITH Tonight at 7pm

Have we given up on Truth? Hallvard Lillehammer Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield

It is said we live in a post-truth era where sentiment and opinion hold sway, supported by disinformation, Al generated images, alternative facts and spin. Who or what can we trust? What are the implications for our democracy, public discourse and personal lives? What about religious or moral truth? Come and explore these questions with us.

St Mark's Church presents...

BIG QUEER CAROLS

14 December at 6pm Broomfield Road S10 2SG

families welcome









Join us for drinks afterward!