

Ardoch Parish Church

Sunday 20th December 2020

Rev Mairi Perkins welcomes everyone to this
4th Sunday in Advent



In place of my reflection we are going to listen and follow the Makaton Christmas Nativity story led by Becky George and friends

The first hymn is “People look East “

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in time the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
He for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as the moon and stars together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
He who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the news, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.
Words by John Ferguson

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Mairi leads us in Prayer

In this season of expectation
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah
Into the bustle of our lives
and the hard to find moments of solitude
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah
Into our homes and situations
along with friends and families
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah
Into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah
For 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,
and reaches out to a world in need.
In this season of anticipation
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah

In our worship we prepare for the birth of a baby in a dusty stable in Bethlehem, and remind ourselves that this child will become the Saviour of the World who will return again in power and glory to draw all of his children together with songs of everlasting praise. The promise of the baby is also the promise of eternal life to all who believe.

God of hope and promise, be with us throughout this Advent season and draw us ever closer as we journey together toward the stable and the birth of your Son, our Saviour.

Amen

**Eleanor Thomas reads from
Luke Chapter 2 v 1-20**

The next hymn is

“Little Drummer Boy”

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

To you O Lord we bring our lives
Troubled, broken or at ease
A sacrificial offering

For you to use
Take away our selfishness
And teach us to love as you loved
Take away our sense of pride
And show us the meaning of humility
Take away our blindness
And show us the world through your eyes
Take away our greed
And teach us how to give as you gave
Show us your ways
Teach us your paths
That we might walk with you more closely
Our hand in your hand
Our feet in your footsteps
From the baby in a stable
To eternity,
For your word which endures
We give you thanks
For your promises to which we hold
We give you thanks
For such intimacy with you
We give you thanks
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
We give you thanks
For those gathered here today
We give you thanks
For family, friend and stranger
We give you thanks
For those who minister your grace
We give you thanks
For the hope that lives each Advent
of a love that has no end
We give you thanks,

Amen

The Hot Chocolate Club members are contributing each week to a part of The Story and this week's script is for two voices and entitled "Good news- aye right"

All these can be viewed on the Church Website

Our closing hymn is

“Do they know it’s Christmas time at all ”

It's Christmas time, there's no need to be afraid
At Christmas time, we let in light and we banish shade
And in our world of plenty, we can spread a smile of joy
Throw your arms around the world at Christmas time

But say a prayer, pray for the other ones
At Christmas time, it's hard, but when you're having fun
There's a world outside your window
And it's a world of dread and fear
Where the only water flowing is the bitter sting of tears
And the Christmas bells that ring there
Are the clanging chimes of doom
Well, tonight, thank God it's them instead of you

And there won't be snow in Africa this Christmas time
The greatest gift they'll get this year is life
Where nothing ever grows, no rain or rivers flow
Do they know it's Christmas time at all?

Here's to you, raise a glass for everyone
Here's to them underneath that burning sun
Do they know it's Christmas time at all?

Feed the world
Feed the world

Feed the world
Let them know it's Christmas time again
Feed the world
Let them know it's Christmas time again
Feed the world
Let them know it's Christmas time again
Feed the world
Let them know it's Christmas time again
Feed the world

Let them know it's Christmas time again
Feed the world
Let them know it's Christmas time again
Feed the world
Let them know it's Christmas time again

Benediction

So now go with the love of Christ and the hope of that promise in your hearts. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Amen

Intimations

Christmas services

“Spread the Christmas spirit and help Santa fly that sledge”

On Christmas Eve the church bell will be rung at 6.00pm by our very own Jim Dawson.

You are encouraged to stand on your doorstep and ring a bell to welcome Christmas and the birth of baby Jesus. Then a selection of carols will be broadcast from the church to the village for all to hear.

Christmas Day

There will be a Zoom pre recorded service on the website on Christmas Day with a welcome and introduction from Mairi. The Hot Chocolate Club has, under their own initiative, adapted a stage nativity “A Christmas to believe in” and Zoom recorded it from their own homes. Hope you can watch it.

Recorded service as usual on 27th December.

Christmas activities

The Guild's beautifully knitted angels have been safely delivered to Braco school and some are on the Christmas tree in the Church grounds.

Also check out the website and see how to join in Angel on the Shelf, (a wee twist on Elf on the Shelf)

Community Carol Walk

Gathering together to sing our favourite carols this year is not possible, but that does not mean we cannot enjoy carols. Bring your phone and follow the clues through the village starting at the Church in Braco and the School in Greenloaning. Scan the QR code on the card and listen to the carol.

Watch out for the community Advent Number Hunt in windows all over the village.

Youth Team, Ardoch Parish Church

The Christingle packs have been delivered by Liz Paterson and Irene Robertson, the Youth Team leaders.

Used Stamps

Please keep saving your used stamps, always remember to leave a small border of the envelope round the stamp. Put them in a bag and put them through Liz Paterson's letter box at Drumsheugal, Church Street.

The money raised is used to support projects for the Church of Scotland World Mission.

Church offerings

We have had members asking for the Church's bank details, which for security reasons are not published. As the Church is not re-opening for Sunday Worship in the foreseeable future, it might be a sensible time for us to consider changing our method of giving.

1. using internet banking, transfer directly each month to Ardoch Parish Church..
2. authorising a direct debit mandate in favour of Ardoch Parish Church.

To obtain further details of these methods, please contact Treasurer, Stuart Brannen. Tel.880394 and he will be very pleased to help in anyway.

Ardoch Parish Church Scottish Charity Number SC000139
ardochparishchurch.org

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