

Sunday 6th December 2020



One of a series of joint services
for the Church of Scotland
congregations in the town,
on the theme of



This morning's act of worship on the theme of *Gladness and generosity* has been prepared to allow us all to spend some time with God, knowing that others are sharing in it.

We thank all involved in creating and distributing this service, and praise God for his unchanging character and unfailing love.

This order of service is for you to use as you are able: some of you may wish simply to read it, whether silently or aloud. Others may wish to listen, and even join in with the singing: just click on the links. If you want to join in the whole service, you'll find it here <https://youtu.be/RaNqvQWHcCo>

If you would like to listen to just the sermon and a prayer, dial 01968 700121 : there will be about 20 seconds' silence, after which the recording should start.

**N.B. The phone recording of the sermon may be an abridged version:
the full sermon is available on YouTube.**

WELCOME

Rev Peter Wood (PSKH)

This Sunday, it is our second time looking at Holy Habits. Holy Habits are attitudes and behaviours that form us spiritually to be people who serve and witness to Jesus Christ in the world.

We light the Advent Candle

OPENING WORDS WITH RESPONSES

Heather Nicholas (StM)

Among the poor, among the proud
Among the persecuted
Christ is coming.

ALL: He is coming to make all things new

In the private house, in the market place
In the wedding feast, in the judgement hall
Christ is coming

ALL: He is coming to make all things new

With a gentle touch, with an angry word
With a clear conscience, with burning love
Christ is coming

ALL: He is coming to make all things new

That the kingdom might come,
that the world might believe
That the powerful might stumble,
that the humble may be raised
Christ is coming

All: He is coming to make all things new

Within us, without us
Among us, before us
In this place, in every place
For this time, for all time
Christ is coming

ALL: He is coming to make all things new

Cloth for the Cradle (1997) @The Wild Goose worship Group

HYMN: Lo, he comes with clouds descending

[Watch video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIszhvHjBxQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIszhvHjBxQ)

1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.
2. 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.
3. Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:

with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign and thou alone.

after J Cennick (1718-1755), C Wesley (1707-1788) and M Madan (1726-1790)

OPENING PRAYER: Peter Wood

SETTING THE SCENE: Peter Wood with Margaret Webster (StM)

SING: We have heard the distant bells (Tune: Good King Wencelas)

We have heard the distant bells
ring out "Christ is coming".
We have heard the angels tell:
God is on his way.
We've seen first-fruits, signs of life,
bursting through the darkness.
In a world of fear and strife,
hope is here to stay.
How long, until you come to reign?
How long, until you come again?

One day there will be no pain,
sorrow or injustice.
Jesus will return again
wiping tears away.
Now we sing lamenting songs,
while the chords are broken,
join in the martyrs in "How long?",
how long must we wait?
How long, until you come to reign?
How long, until you come again?

Rays of light, a glimpse of dawn,
while the night still lingers.
Earth it groans to be reborn,
help us watch and pray.
Clothe us in the ways of Christ,

ready for his coming.
Worshipping through daily life,
hastening the day,
when you come to reign.

How long, until you come to reign?

How long, until you come again?

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BIBLE READINGS (New Revised Standard Version): David Tulloch (PNK)

Psalm 100

¹Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

²Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

³Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

⁵For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Now it is not necessary for me to write you about the ministry to the saints, ²for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year; and your zeal has stirred up most of them. ³But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you may not prove to have been empty in this case, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be; ⁴otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking. ⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion.

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also

overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

REFLECTIONS: PETER WOOD

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS: Rosie Townsley (PSKH)

CLOSING HYMN: Joy to the world

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/9rIS166ppoE>

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come;

Let earth receive her King;

Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;

Your sweetest songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders, wonders of his love.

The wonders, wonders of his love

With thanks to Sara & Sam Hargreaves, with Dan Warwick on brass (@danslownotes); engageworship.org

CLOSING WORDS and BLESSING: Peter Wood

God of light and hope,

of stars and surprises,

open our eyes to your glory

and our hearts to your presence

That we may respond with joy

To the angels' song.

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen**

And now may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with us all this day and forever more,

Amen

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The following congregations were involved in this service:

- PNK: Penicuik North Church
- PSAH: Penicuik South with Howgate
- StM: Penicuik St Mungo's