

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service
24th December 2023 10:30**



Call to Worship: Psalm 98

LEADER O Lord, I will always sing of your constant love;

RESPONSE I will proclaim your faithfulness for ever

L I know that your love will last for all time

R that your faithfulness is as permanent as the sky ...

L How happy are the people who worship you with songs

R who live in the light of your kindness

L Because of you they rejoice all day long

R and praise you for your goodness

Hymn 294 On Christmas night all Christians sing

Lighting of Fourth Advent Candle

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Peace: The Peace of Christ be with you

and also with you

(Let us share peace with one another)

Prayer

Hymn 316 Love came down at Christmas

Old Testament Reading: 2nd Samuel chapter 7, verses 1-11 and verse 16

God's Covenant with David

7 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, **2** the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' **3** Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: **5** Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? **6** I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. **7** Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' **8** Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; **9** and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. **10** And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, **11** from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Anthem The bell carol Philip Ledger

Gospel Reading: Luke, chapter 1, verses 26-38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' **29** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30** The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. **31** And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' **34** Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' **35** The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. **36** And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be

barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God.' **38** Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn 315 Once in Royal David's city

Sermon: The Annunciation – you couldn't make it up!

Hymn 287 No wind at the window

Prayers of the People

Hymn 331 Unto us a child is born

Blessing

Worship leader: Rev. Alistair Kiel

Reader: Colin Douglas

Prayers of the people: Susan McLarty

Organist: Jamie Turnbull

St Andrew's & St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh

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