

Edinburgh: The New Town Church of Scotland

Order of Service, 4th February 2024

10.30am

'New Day Dawning'



'Presentation of our Lord' by Fra Angelico

Gathering music

Welcome

Call to worship

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good

His love endures forever

Give thanks to the God of gods

His love endures forever

Give thanks to the Lord of lords

His love endures forever

(from Psalm 136)

Hymn 5 O Lord, our Lord, throughout the earth

Opening Prayer

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you
and also with you

Hymn 197 As we are gathered, Jesus is here

Scripture Readings (NRSV)

Malachi 3: 1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

Anthem

Luke 2: 22-35

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

Hymn 489 Come down, O Love Divine

Sermon *New Day Dawning*

Hymn 248 For my sake and the gospel's, go

Prayers of the People

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **Amen.**

Hymn 19 Ye gates, lift up your heads on high

Unveil elements.

INVITATION

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Psalm 116: 5, 12, 13

Let us celebrate this joyful feast.

People will come from east and west and north and south,

And sit at table in the kingdom of God.

Luke 13:29

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is our duty and delight, always and everywhere, to give you thanks and praise, Almighty God, eternal and holy Father. You created the heavens and the earth; you made us in your image; and in countless ways you show us your mercy. For all your goodness to us, known and unknown, we give you thanks with the Church universal, and with the whole company of heaven we praise you in the angels' hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We bless you for the gift of Jesus Christ.
Born of Mary, **he shares our life.**
Eating with sinners, **he welcomes us.**
Dying on the cross, **he rescues us.**
Risen from the dead, **he gives us new life.**

By the presence and power of the Holy Spirit bless and consecrate these gifts; so that the bread which we break may be for us a sharing in the body of Christ, and the cup which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ, for the forgiveness of sins and the hallowing of all our lives and work.

Receive us, O God, as, together with our praise, we offer to you our very selves.

And now, as Jesus taught us, we say:

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.
Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Holy Communion

We do this as Christ appointed. On the night he was betrayed, he took bread (*the minister takes bread*) and, after giving thanks to God, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is broken for you; do this remembering me.'

In the same way he took the cup (*the minister raises the cup*) and said: 'This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do it remembering me.'

Jesus, Lamb of God

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world

grant us peace.

(The minister gives bread)

Take this and eat it: this is the body of Christ which is broken for you. Do this remembering him.

(The minister offers the cup)

This cup is the new covenant sealed by Christ's blood which was shed that the sins of many might be forgiven. Drink from it, all of you.

(After all have received)

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Prayer

Great is the mystery of faith

Dying, you destroyed our death

Rising, you restored our life

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Remembering all the witnesses and martyrs of the faith and in communion with our sisters and brothers who have fallen asleep in Christ.

Gracious God, You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us and renewed us for service.

Help us, who have shared Christ's body and blood, to be his faithful disciples, so that our daily living may be part of your kingdom, and our love be your love, reaching out into the life of the world. **Amen.**

Hymn 182 Now thank we all our God

Sending and blessing

Sending music

Worship Leader: Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison

Worship Assistants: Jane Brown

Scripture Reader: Mary Davidson

Organist/pianist: David Stewart

Sources:

Scripture reading(s) taken from the New Revised Standard Version unless otherwise stated.

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition unless otherwise stated

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