**THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**29 December 2024**

**Hymn 360**

*Let all the world in every corner sing*  *'My God and King!'*

The heav'ns are not too high,    
his praise may thither fly:  
the earth is not too low,    
his praises there may grow.  
*Let all the world in every corner sing*  *'My God and King!'*

*Let all the world in every corner sing* *'My God and King!'*  
The church with psalms must shout;    
no door can keep them out;  
but above all the heart   
must bear the longest part.  
*Let all the world in every corner sing* *'My God and King! '*

**Hello and Welcome**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all: **and also with you**

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**  
Let us worship the Lord. **All praise to his name.**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

**PENITENCE**

Let us kneel and confess our sins to God our Father.

**O God, our loving Father in heaven,**  
**we confess that we have sinned against you;**  
**we have broken your commandments;**  
**we have often been selfish,**  
**and we have not loved you as we should.**  
**For these and all our sins, forgive us, we pray:**  
**through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**FORGIVENESS**

**PREPARING** **to hear God's word**

*The lesson reader says:*

Let us hear the word of the Lord.  
**So may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.**

**LUKE 2:41-52**

Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, ‘Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.’ ‘Why were you searching for me?’ he asked. ‘Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?’ But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**CHILDREN'S SPOT**

**Hymn 483**

**1** Jesus went to worship  
in the synagogue;  
with his friends and neighbours  
sang his praise to God.

**2** We, like Jesus, worship  
in the church today;  
still, with friends and neighbours,  
sing our songs and pray.

**3** When the service ended,  
Jesus took his praise  
into streets and houses,  
spelling out God's ways.

**4** People came to Jesus,  
frightened, hurt and sad;  
helping them to worship,  
Jesus made them glad.

**5** Holy Spirit, help us  
when this service ends,  
still to follow Jesus,  
still to be his friends.

**6** When our neighbours meet us,  
may they, with surprise,  
catch a glimpse of Jesus  
rising in our eyes.

**COLOSSIANS 3:12-17**

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**Hymn 179 1,2,5,6**

See amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see, the tender Lamb appears  
promised from eternal years.

*Hail thou ever-blessèd morn,  
hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
sing through all Jerusalem:  
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!’*

**2** Lo, within a manger lies ͜  
he who built the starry skies;  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim!

**5** Sacred Infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

**6** Teach, O teach us, holy Child,  
by thy face so meek and mild,  
teach us to resemble thee,  
in thy sweet humility.

**THE SERMON**

**Hymn 198**

1 The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter’s night that was so deep:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel!*

**2** They looked up and saw a star  ͜    
shining in the east beyond them afar,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night:

**3** And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went:

**4** This star drew nigh to the north-west,  
o’er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  ͜  
right over the place where Jesus lay:

**5** Then entered in those wise men three  
most reverently upon their knee,  
they offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

**6** Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood mankind has bought:

**DECLARING FAITH**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
who made the world?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,  
who redeemed mankind?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.  
**This is our faith.**  
**We believe and trust in One God,**  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**PRAYING TOGETHER**

Faithful God: **Glorify your name!**

**The Collects**

**O Lord, our heavenly Father,** **almighty and everliving God,** **we give you thanks for bringing us safely through this *year*:**   
***In the coming year*, keep us from falling into sin**  
**or running into danger, and in all things**  
**guide us to know and do your will;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name,**  
**thy kingdom come,**  
**thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our trespasses**  
**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**  
**And lead us not into temptation,**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom,**  
**the power, and the glory,**  
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

**A THANKSGIVING**

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise**

**THE BLESSING**

**Hymn 83**

The year is gone, beyond recall,  
with all its hopes and fears,  
with all its bright and gladdening smiles,  
with all its mourners' tears.

**2** Thy thankful people praise thee, Lord,  
for countless gifts received,  
and pray for grace to keep the faith  
which saints of old believed.

**3** To thee we come, O gracious Lord,  
the new-born year to bless;  
defend our land from pestilence,  
give peace and plenteousness.

**4** Forgive this nation's many sins,  
the growth of vice restrain;  
and help us all with sin to strive,  
and crowns of life to gain.

**5** From evil deeds that stain the past  
we now desire to flee;  
and pray that future years may all  
be spent, good Lord, for thee.

**6** O Father, let thy watchful eye  
still look on us in love,  
that we may praise thee, year by year,  
with angel hosts above.

*Let us say together:*

**Be with us Lord,**  
**as we go out into the world.**

**May the lips that have sung your praise  
always speak the truth;  
may the ears which have heard your Word  
listen only to what is good**  
**and may our lives,  
as well as our worship,  
be always pleasing in your sight,  
for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Watch the New Year in as we worship  
**Tuesday 31st December**  
11:30 pm Watchnight Service in Carryduff  
**Wednesday 1 January**  
10:30 New Year's Day Communion in Carryduff