



The **Scottish Episcopal Church**
Growing in faith and holiness
United Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway



Christmas Eve



Order of Service for Holy Communion

Please feel free to take this sheet home and share it with friends and family and neighbours or work mates!

authorized material of the SEC from <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/liturgies/>

Introduction to the Season

The celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas is one of the two poles of the Christian year. The wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, as Emmanuel, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary, provides the material of the feast:

Hark, hark, the wise eternal word, like a weak infant cries!

In form of servant is the Lord, and God in cradle lies. *(Thomas*

Pestel)

Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth, and neither of the great Christmas morning readings (Hebrews 1 and John 1) is taken from the infancy narratives. The task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation. It is Christ's nativity that has provided the occasion for this festival of the incarnation, since the end of the third century. The Christmas crib and the nativity play can both be said to descend from the tableau of Christ's birth that Francis of Assisi arranged when he celebrated Christmas at Greccio in 1223. Christmas carols are a medieval tradition, which has been notably developed from the end of the nineteenth century. The Festival of Lessons and Carols is itself an influential English creation of the late nineteenth century, made widespread by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, in the first half of the twentieth. The Christmas season is often celebrated for twelve days, ending with the Epiphany. Contemporary use has sought to express an alternative tradition, in which Christmas lasts for a full forty days, ending with the Feast of the Presentation on 2 February. The days around 25 December are a principal holiday in the secular calendar of Britain. It has become a still greater challenge to celebrate as they deserve the saints of the Christmas season: Stephen, who first paid with his life for following the incarnate Lord; John, who was believed to have lived to great old age in profound meditation on the Word made flesh; and the Holy Innocents, who draw our attention to the plight of children in a world where the implications of the birth of the Christ-child are not yet manifest. New Year's Day is an important moment in the civil rather than the Christian calendar, but it provides the chance for us to dedicate ourselves to God's service as Mary our patron did and the catholic tradition of the Christian year celebrates 'Mary Mother of God' on 1st January.

from <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/easter#mmm225>

1st Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Eve

Hymn/Carol

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Lighting the Christmas Candle

We lit the first candle to pray for hope.

We lit the second candle to pray for peace.

We lit the third candle to pray for joy.

We lit the fourth candle to pray for love.

Now we light the Christmas candle and we rejoice that Jesus is born.

He is hope, peace, joy and love for all the world.

A Saviour is born to us today. **Alleluia!**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you bring the life of God into the world.
Fill us with your light,
now and always. Amen**

Blessing of the Crib

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation:

+ bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,

who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen.**



The Prayers of Penitence

God is love and we are God's children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.



Sit or kneel

**God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.
We are truly sorry.
Forgive us our sins,
and deliver us from the power of evil,
for the sake of your Son who died for us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

God, who is both power and love,
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Stand to sing



in excelsis deo!

Gloria (from the Mass of Christ the Light of the Nations)

**Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to people, people of good will
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you
we give you thanks for your great glory
Lord God heavenly King, O God almighty Father
Lord Jesus Christ only begotten son**

**Lord God lamb of God, Son of the Father
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us
For you alone are the holy one,
you alone are the Lord
you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the father
Aaaamen, Aaaaamen**

Collect of Christmas Night

Eternal God,
this holy night is radiant
with the brilliance of your one true light.
As we have known the revelation of that light on earth,
so bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Sit

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING Titus 2.11–14

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,
and in the present age to live lives
that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,
13 while we wait for the blessed hope



and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

- 14 He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Hymn/Carol

remain standing

Gospel Reading Luke 2.1–14

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to Christ our Saviour

- 1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 3 All went to their own towns to be registered.
- 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.
- 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
- 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
- 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
- 8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,

- keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified.
- 10 But the angel said to them,
'Do not be afraid; for see –
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the
people:
- 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.
- 12 This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger.'
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,
- 14 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sit **Sermon / Homily / Reflection**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
**the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,
of one substance with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son, he is **worshipped and glorified.**
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Minister Let us pray to our incarnate Lord,
who has brought us out of darkness and into his
own marvellous light.

Christ born for us, Son of God given for us:
help us to know you,
to worship and to serve you.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Wonderful counsellor,
you order all things with your wisdom:
help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love
and fill her with the Spirit of truth.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders:
guide the leaders of the nations
and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting father,
you call us to live together in unity:
protect by your mercy all your children,
bless our families and renew our communities.
Lord, in your mercy , **hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace,
you bring reconciliation through the cross:
by your healing power give to all who suffer
your gift of wholeness and peace.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On this Christmas night we pray for ourselves in a moment of
silence and lay our needs before the Christ-child in our hearts.

Leader Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit,
All **hear our prayer,**
 receive our praises,
 fill our lives. Amen.

stand

The Liturgy of the Sacrament **The Peace**

We meet in Christ's name:
Let us share his peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.



Hymn/Carol

The Taking of the Bread and the Wine

Offering

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power, the glory,
the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you,
and of your own we give you.**



The Eucharistic Prayer

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 God thanks and praise.



Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.
Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.
Day and night celebrate your glory
till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your Word became flesh,
and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary.
He emptied himself, taking our human form,
That through his incarnation and passion
we might come to share in his divine nature.

Filled with the Spirit,
who at the first Creation
moved over the face of the waters,
and overshadowed the blessed Virgin at Nazareth,
we await with joy the fulfilment of your new Creation.

As children of your redeeming purpose
who celebrate the birth of your Son,
we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

All sing

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts
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. Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father.
In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us,
and lived for a time among us,
that we might for ever live with you.

In the manger at Bethlehem, in his flight to Egypt,
and as the carpenter's son,
the Only-begotten bent low to meet us.

Obedient to your calling,
he accepted death on the cross.
When you exalted him on the third day,
and bestowed on him the name above all names,
he opened the gate of glory
that we might be your children,
and share in his kingdom of Peace.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
desiring to complete the work
for which he came into the world,
at supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."
After supper, he took the cup,
he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:
*"Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me."*



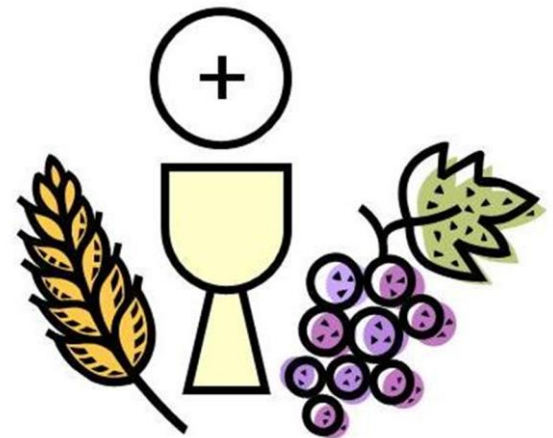
**We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by your Spirit's life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.



**Help us,
who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters
living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end. **Amen.**



The Sharing of the Bread and Wine

The Breaking of the Bread

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.
Lord, unite us in this sign.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

**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.

**Do not bring us to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Communion Song

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us. (x2)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

If you normally receive Holy Communion in your Church you are welcome to do so here. Please hold your hands out clearly. If you do not want to receive Holy Communion please come forward and keep your head bowed to receive a blessing.



Hymn/Carol is sung during the clearing up

Sentence

Give thanks to our gracious God:
whose mercy endures forever.

Post Communion Prayer

**Father of all,
tonight you have united earth and heaven
in sending your Son to take our human nature.
May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his
eternal kingdom.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation
gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with his joy and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
+ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Hymn/Carol

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ Amen.



Come along and join us on a Sunday or a Wednesday after Christmas and into the new year...

Sundays

0945 Sung Eucharist – St Johns Johnstone

1130 Sung Eucharist – St Margaret's Renfrew

& Wednesdays

2pm Holy Communion (said) – St Johns Johnstone

7pm Holy Communion (said) – St Margaret's Renfrew

To make arrangements for Baptisms, weddings, funerals, memorials, house blessings, confessions..... please contact the Rector - Very Rev'd Reuben James Preston 07971 895897
rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk



You are invited to come to the services and discover something of God afresh in life as we join together in worship, prayer and praise.

In our contemporary world we know that people are celebrating their differences – we celebrate that too! We are churches for the diversity of all people – you are welcomed in the Scottish Episcopal Church.



Visit us on Facebook or on our websites
www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk



The **Scottish Episcopal Church** at prayer
in church together and at home

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