



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



Christmas Day

Order of Service

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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 one set of the great Christmas readings we use (Hebrews 1 and John 1) is not taken from the infancy narratives. The task of the full 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 creation of the late nineteenth century, made widespread by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, in the first half of the twentieth and broadcast by the BBC annually and enjoyed at our St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow. 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 Great 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 did and the Anglican tradition of the Christian year here in the Scottish Episcopal Church celebrates 'The Naming of Jesus' on 1st January.

Eucharist of Christmas Day

Opening 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 day 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

**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 our masks

Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.
To him be glory forever.
To him be glory forever.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia amen, **alleluia ame—n.**

Glory to God, glory to God, son of the Father.

Glory to God, glory to God, son of the Father.

To him be glory forever.

To him be glory forever.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia amen, **alleluia ame—n.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.

To him be glory forever.

To him be glory forever.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia amen, **alleluia ame—n.**

Collect of Christmas Morning

Almighty God,
you wonderfully created
and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature.
May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ,
who humbled himself to share our humanity,
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. **Amen**

Sit as we feast together on the Scriptures

Reading Titus 3.4–7

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

4 When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our
Saviour appeared,

5 he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had
done, but according to his mercy,
through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

6 This Spirit he poured out on us richly
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,

7 so that, having been justified by his grace,



we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel reading

GOSPEL Luke 2.1–20

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

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!'

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious gospel

Praise to Christ our Lord

Homily for Christmas Morning

we all pause and hold silence

the we stand if we are able for

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 and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

Commented [A1]:

For us and for our salvation: This is the ELLC text and is used in the following Anglican provinces: England, Wales, New Zealand, Canada, Ireland, TEC [and ACNA]. It is by no means obvious that it needs an explanatory footnote to clarify that the human race rather than the present congregation is intended by 'us'. Compare the clause, 'For our sake he was crucified'.

Commented [A2]: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary: This is the ELLC text and was suggested by several respondents. The Committee is happy to propose this, since it represents a more accurate rendering of *ek Pneumatou Hagiou kai Marias tēs parthenou*. It is used in Common Worship and the NZPB. Our current ICET text, "by the power of", takes liberties with the Greek. Rites in other provinces, which do not use the ICET formulation, use variants of the ELLC text, but with different prepositions, reflecting the Latin (*Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine*) rather than the Greek text, on which this liturgical version of the Nicene Creed is based ("We believe", "who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father ...").

Commented [A3]:

and was made human: *enanthrōpēsanta* middle/passive, "was made human" or "became human"

**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,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who 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.**

Sit

Prayers of Intercession

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

God the creator, on this holy day your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

On this holy day there was no room for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

On this holy day Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand *[...and]* all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

On this holy day your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to [...and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world.
Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

On this holy day the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in [...and in] all the world.
Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

On this holy day shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

On this holy day strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

On this holy day heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand [...and] all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

On this holy day Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, on this holy day angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with
Mary, Joseph, St John the Evangelist, St Margaret of Scotland and all
the saints through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

stand

The Peace

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



All may exchange a sign of peace by waving across the church building and to those at home

Carol

The Taking of the Bread and the Wine

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 our 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 Jesus Christ, your Word became flesh,
and on this day 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 who 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:

**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.**

Congregation sit

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."*

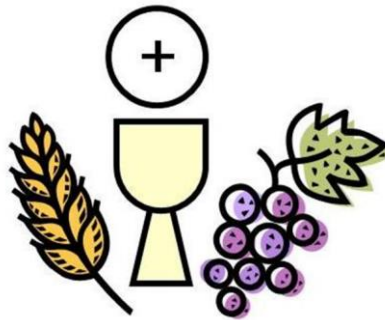


**We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

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 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 Christ has commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say:

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kindgom 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**

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

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

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

Receiving Communion

If you normally receive Holy Communion in your Church you are welcome to do so here.



CAROL

we hold silence together

Sentence

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

Post Communion Prayer

**Father of all,
the child born for us is the Saviour of the world.
May he who made us your children
welcome us into your kingdom,
where he is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.
Amen**

Notices are given out

Stand

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**

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

Carol

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



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.

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