

Order of Service
Sunday 24 December 2006
Theme: "Challenging Child"

Prayer before worship

*"Thank you Father
for the gift of your Son to be our Saviour
for the love of Christ that he came
for his lowly birth at Bethlehem
for his sacrificial death and mighty resurrection
for his great salvation which now he offers to us
Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace and goodwill".*

Amen

Organ Voluntaries

At Christmas-tide, Op. 182, No. 1
– Charles Villiers Stanford (1852 - 1924)
Jazz Prelude I on *Go, tell it on the mountain*
– John Behnke (b. 1953)
Jazz Prelude II on *Go, tell it on the mountain*
– Jan Janca (b. 1933)

Notices

HYMN CH3 179

See in yonder manger low

Words: Edward Caswall (1814-78)

Music: HUMILITY - John Goss (1800-80)

See in yonder manger low,
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!'*

Lo within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim.

Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!....

Sacred infant, all Divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!....

HYMN MP 236

Holy child

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Music: Michael Baughen (b. 1930)

Holy child, how still You lie!
Safe the manger, soft the hay;
Faint upon the eastern sky
Breaks the dawn of Christmas Day.

(Mary takes her place and the angel behind her)

Holy child, whose birthday brings
Shepherds from their fields and fold,
Angel-choirs and eastern kings,
Myrrh and frankincense and gold:

Holy child, what gift of grace
From the Father freely willed!
In Your infant form we trace
All God's promises fulfilled.

(Joseph takes his place at Mary's right hand side)

Holy child, whose human years
Span like ours delight and pain;
One in human joys and tears,
One in all but sin and stain:

Holy child, so far from home,
All the lost to seek and save,
To what dreadful death You come,
To what dark and silent grave!

Holy child, before whose name
Powers of darkness faint and fall;
Conquered death and sin and shame
Jesus Christ is Lord of all!

Holy child, how still You lie!
Safe the manger, soft the hay;
Clear upon the eastern sky
Breaks the dawn of Christmas Day.

The Shepherds

The Announcement

HYMN CH4 302

It was on a starry night

Words and music: Joy Webb (b. 1932)

It was on a starry night when the hills were bright,
earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still;
then in a cattle shed, in a manger bed,
a boy was born, King of all the world.

*And all the angels sang for him,
the bells of heaven rang for him;
for a boy was born, King of all the world.*

*And all the angels sang for him,
the bells of heaven rang for him;
for a boy was born, King of all the world.*

**(The shepherds come and stand on Mary's left
together with any animals, etc.)**

Soon the shepherds came that way, where the baby lay,
and were kneeling, kneeling by his side,
to celebrate his birth bringing peace on earth;
a boy was born, King of all the world.

*And all the angels sang for him,
the bells of heaven rang for him;
for a boy was born, King of all the world.*

*And all the angels sang for him,
the bells of heaven rang for him;
for a boy was born, King of all the world.*

The Shepherds

Offering

Prayer

Activity:

Making Gifts

HYMN MP 83

Come and join the celebration

Words and music: Valerie Collison (b. 1933)

*Come and join the celebration
it's a very special day;
come and share our jubilation,
there's a new King born today!*

See the shepherds
hurry down to Bethlehem;
gaze in wonder
at the Son of God who lay before them.

Wise men journey,
led to worship by a star,
kneel in homage,
bringing precious gifts
from lands afar, so
Come and join....

'God is with us,'
'round the world the message bring;
He is with us,
'Welcome! all the bells on earth
are pealing.
Come and join....

Reader 4

Matthew 2: 1-12 Page 966/Large Print Page 1114
Tim Sinclair

King's Evidence

Reflection

HYMN SH 2000

From the squalor of a borrowed stable
Words and music: Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

From the squalor of a borrowed stable,
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith;
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Saviour of the human race!
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the Gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,
Humble servant in the Father's hands,
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,
Filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,
Joys and sorrows that I know so well;
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again.
I will follow my Immanuel!

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,
He was lifted on a cruel cross;
He was punished for a world's transgressions,
He was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me,
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
And with a shout our souls are free -
Death defeated by Immanuel!

Now He's standing in the place of honour,
Crowned with glory on the highest throne,
Interceding for His own beloved
Till His Father calls to bring them home!
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,
Giving glory to Immanuel!

Celebrate the Birthday of the King
The congregation should join in at the appropriate time

- 'Parade'** (Make a marching band sound or hum '76 trombones from 'The Music Man')
- 'Special Place'** (say 'Location! 'Location! 'Location!')
- 'Fireworks'** (Shout 'Ka-Boom!')
- 'Invitations'** (Say 'RSVP!')
- 'Presents'** (Say 'For me?' or make a big unwrapping sound)
- 'Party'** (Shout and cheer or say 'It's Party Time!')

Activity: Sharing Christmas

HYMN MP 393

Joy to the world

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: ANTIOCH - Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven,
and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
your sweetest songs employ
while fields and streams
and hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
the wonders of His love,
the wonders of His love,
the wonders, wonders of His love.

Prayer

BENEDICTION **The congregation to say the words in italics**

Lord Jesus our King, thank you for coming into our world
Help us to let you rule in our lives
Lord Jesus our Priest, thank you for coming so we can know God
Help us to draw near to you
Lord Jesus our Saviour, thank you for dying on the cross
so our sins can be forgiven
Help us to accept and share your forgiveness now
Lord God, thank you for the good news of Christmas
May your joy and comfort fill our lives today and always
Amen

Thank you everyone for coming and taking part in telling the story
of the birth of Jesus - this special, challenging child.
Do stay behind for refreshments in the church at the end of the Service

Organ Voluntary

Noël in G – Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

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Challenging Child



NOTICES

WELCOME to visitors worshipping with us today. We hope you will sign our Visitors' Book in the vestibule.

SOUND SYSTEM There is an effective *loop* in the church. Hearing aid users may wish to use the T switch.

TEA AND COFFEE will be served in the church after the closing voluntary. All are welcome to enjoy fellowship together.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Please use and check pigeonholes for exchange of Christmas Cards.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING at the Watchnight Service and Christmas Day Service will be divided between the Rock Trust and Tear Fund.

HOLIDAYS The office will be closed until Tuesday 9 January 2007

EARLY BIRDS' PRAYER MEETING Please note that the next Early Birds' Prayer Meeting is on **Wednesday 17 January 2007** at 7.00 am in Annan House, 10 Palmerston Place (finish 7.30 am). All welcome.

PASTORAL CARE Mr Sinclair can be contacted at either the Church Office on 220 1690 or at home on 447 9598. The address of the Manse is 30b Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 6BJ. Rev W J Macdonald can also be contacted on 332 0254.

SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE	6.30 pm	No Evening Service
24 DECEMBER	11.00 pm	Coffee and Mince Pies
	11.30-12.05 am	Watchnight Service
CHRISTMAS DAY	11-11.40 am	Family Christmas Service
25 DECEMBER		
SUNDAY	11.00 am	Morning Service "A Child for Ordinary People"
31 DECEMBER	6.30 pm	No Evening Service

