

## **Laggan Church**

Saturday 24th December 2022 at 11pm Watchnight service

Sunday 25th December 2022 joint service at Kingussie at 10:30

## **Kingussie Parish Church**

Wednesday 21st December, Babies and Toddlers meet from 9am

Thursday 22nd December, we open our Hall as a Warm space from 10am until 4pm. Hot drinks and snacks will be available throughout the day and soup and bread at lunchtime. Everyone welcome to pop in for a hot drink, soup and friendly chat.

Saturday 24th December, Watchnight service at 11:15pm

Sunday 25th December joint Christmas morning service at 10:30am

## **Newtonmore Church**

Tonight the Badenoch Chorale, are holding their Christmas Concert at St Bride's Church Newtonmore at 7p.m. Free admission, donations welcome.

Saturday 24th December Carol Service at 7pm

Sunday 25th December joint service at Kingussie at 10:30am

## **A Call To Worship**

Let us prepare to welcome our God!

A distant star glinting in the indigo sky:

COME, JESUS, COME.

A blazing beacon lighting up the way:

COME, JESUS, COME.

An energising sun brightening a gloomy day:

COME, JESUS, COME.

4th Advent Candles may be lit.

We light the fourth candle of Advent for ourselves,

For we are called to be Christ's body

And to live in this time and place.

We light the fourth candle of Advent in the circle of God's eternity, a circle green as the earth where Jesus came to live with us. We light the fourth candle of Advent to celebrate the Christ who comes as a babe at Bethlehem, and in power and great glory at the end of time.

We light the fourth candle of Advent for ourselves, we are called to be Christ's body and live in this time and place.

Amen

1st Hymn 284 Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets

### **Let us Pray**

Lord Christ, born in Bethlehem, give us grace to live the generosity of your humility. With great joy WE CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTH

Lord Christ, Lord of all creation, give us grace to live the compassion of your justice. With great joy WE WAIT FOR YOUR COMING

Lord Christ, whose Spirit is active in your Church and your whole world, give us grace to live the calling to be your body. WE PROCLAIM YOUR PRESENCE

Amen

Mr Sandy Peebles brings our 1st Reading to us this morning Isaiah CH 7 V 10 - 16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."  
Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

## **2nd Hymn 286 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord**

Mr Sandy Peebles brings our 2nd Reading to us Roman's CH 1 v 1 - 7

Paul a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

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

## **Prayer of Approach for Advent**

God and maker of all, to redeem the world you chose the most unsuspecting of women to mother your Son and by your choice gave new glory to human flesh and earthly parenting.

With joy that was Mary's, may our souls magnify the Lord, and our bodies be the means through which you continue the mighty work of salvation for which Christ came. And we join together saying:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen

## **Choir Anthem: While Shepherds watched**

## **3rd Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

## **Thought for the Day**

Matthew, writing for a Hebrew audience, is keen to show the Jewish people that Jesus is indeed the promised Messiah. He draws attention to Isaiah's prophecy spoken to King Ahaz, and sets out Jesus' credentials. Through Joseph, Jesus is a descendant of King David; through Mary, this son born to a virgin, fulfils the ancient prophecy and turns out to be 'Immanuel' or 'God with us'.

It is not unusual for prophecies about short-term, immediate events to turn out to resonances far in excess of their original meaning. One familiar example is the call of St Francis to "repair my Church, which is in ruins". It was far more than one stone chapel which was eventually 'repaired'; the whole Church of God became refreshed and invigorated.

The expectant atmosphere of today's readings attunes us to God's way of orchestrating events and working in co-operation with his people. The stage is set, the timing is right, and the focused light of all hopes and longings of generations is about to shine out in the person of Jesus. Typically, we find God delighting in using the ordinary good people allows individual people to know their own part in the action exactly as and when they need to know it.

It is because Joseph is expecting God to be God that he is prepared to alter his sensible and considerate plan to make no loud accusations about Mary when divorcing her for assumed unfaithfulness. Whatever that dream was, it made him think again.

Perhaps Mary had tried to tell him the truth and he hadn't been able to believe her before. We can only guess at how Mary felt before Joseph changed his mind. God will still speak to us through our dreams, memories and feelings, if only we take the trouble to notice.

They can often be our own personal parables, able to put us in touch with our true selves; enabling us to recognise God's ways forward which we haven't been able to see before.

## **ADVENT INTERCESSIONS**

### **Let us Pray**

Advent Once a year the chance to wait with a purpose. Makes a change.

We are waiting Jesus; Come and live with us soon.  
Jesus, we are waiting because we know who you are:  
the Creator of the world,  
the God who took on human form,  
the son of Mary, a girl just like any other girl.  
We are waiting, Jesus; Come and live with us soon.

Jesus we are waiting because we have faith in you.  
We know that we can trust you.  
We remember that you are good to us, and we thank you for all good things  
that you give us every day.  
We are waiting, Jesus; Come and live with us soon.  
Jesus we are waiting here,  
here in Kingussie, waiting for you to come into our houses, our streets, our  
shops, and offices, to fill them with your light and peace.

We are waiting, Jesus; Come and live with us soon.  
Jesus, we are waiting for you to come and change things: to bring health to  
our sick ones, to make our asylum seekers welcome, to comfort those who  
have lost loved ones; and to turn us around so that we can be your hands  
and feet, your ears and eyes, in this world that needs you so much. We are  
waiting, Jesus; Come and live with us soon.

Amen

### **4th Hymn 301 Hark the herald angels**

SEND US OUT WITH ANTICIPATION AND JOY  
At this time of Advent,  
Fire our imaginations  
With the sweep of your salvation.  
Catch us up  
In the cause of your kingdom,  
already breaking into this world

in our ransomed lives  
yet waiting for its final fulfilment when Christ shall come again.  
and let your Spirit,  
wild as the wind,  
gentle as the dove,  
move within us and among us,  
to enliven our worship and strengthen our faith  
and send us out with anticipation and joy.  
Lord Christ, stay with us as we celebrate your coming with joy and laughter  
and with stillness and wonder.

Amen

**Hymn 786 May the God of peace go with us.**