



CROWN COURT
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
COVENT GARDEN

The Fourth Sunday in Advent
Sunday 22nd December 2023 at 11.15am

Minister: The Rev Scott Rennie MA BD STM FRSA
The lessons are read by Charlotte Henderson

**My soul tells out the greatness of the Lord, my spirit has rejoiced in God
my Saviour. St Luke 1: 46b-47**

*God made know in the friendship of women, the word of greeting and unseen life
enwombed: give us the courage of the teenage mother who brings into the world a
song of joyful revolt and a God who needs her love; through Jesus Christ, the one
who is to come. Amen.*

* *Indicates where those who are able should stand*

VOLUNTARY

A warm welcome to worship at Crown Court Church of Scotland – ‘*The Kirk of the Crown of Scotland.*’ Whether you are visiting for the first time or are with us occasionally or often - we are delighted to be able to welcome you today in person or online.

We regularly stream our services. The camera will mainly be focused on the minister and the front of the sanctuary. However, should you wish to ensure you are not included in the livestream, please may we ask that you sit to the rear of the sanctuary by the stained-glass windows.

CALL TO WORSHIP

M: Out of little Bethlehem comes one who is to rule in Israel.

P: He shall be great to the ends of the earth.

M: Our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour.

P: God’s mercy extends from generation to generation.

Holy is God’s name!

* **HYMN 286 Tell out my soul**

WOODLANDS

PRAYERS OF APPROACH WITH LORD’S PRAYER

And we pray together:

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, the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

SHARING THE PEACE

We share the peace by saying to our neighbours,
'Peace be with you' and exchanging a handshake or a hug.

* HYMN Long ago prophets knew

PERSONENT HODIE 193

1. LONG ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
Bear his People's burden,
Freely love and pardon.

Refrain:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

3. Mary, hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid;
Till the time expected
Nurtured and protected.

Refrain:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

2. God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Refrain:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

4. Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Refrain:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

SCRIPTURE READING: Micah 5:2-5a (p.933)

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:39-45 (p. 1026)

SERMON

*** HYMN 304 O little town of Bethlehem**

FORE ST GREEN

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

As the Offering is brought forward the congregation stand and sing the doxology:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God, the Trinity of love,
before, beneath, around, above.**

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

M: God of love, God of glory,

P: **be known among us.**

***HYMN 281 People look east**

BESANÇON

*** THE BLESSING & SENDING**

*** SUNG AMEN (Hymn 819)**

POSTLUDE

We offer a warm welcome to any visitors. Please join us for tea and coffee in the Hall downstairs after the service. You will be very welcome.

Remember to take your Order of Service with you to stay up to date with all the events taking place at Crown Court Church.

INTIMATIONS:

Tuesday 24 December	Christingle Service at 14:00 with Rev Scott Rennie.
Wednesday 25 December	Christmas morning service with communion at 11:15 with Rev Scott Rennie.
Sunday 29 December	Morning service at 11.15 with Rev Scott Rennie.
Sunday 5 January	Morning service at 11.15 with Rev Scott Rennie.

Office Hours over Christmas

The Church Administrator is on holiday from 24 December until 2 January. She will have limited access to her emails. For any Pastoral Care queries please contact the minister Rev Scott Rennie (minister@crowncourtchurch.org.uk, 07967 736 865). For any other urgent queries please contact the Session Clerk Sheena-Jane Clark (clerk@crowncourtchurch.org.uk, 07954 350 899).

Crown Court Christmas Cards

Crown Court Christmas Cards are now on sale! There are two designs to choose from, priced at £1 each. You can buy them after the service in the hall or request to have them sent by post by reaching out to Norma McGoldrick at normamcgoldrick@yahoo.co.uk or by calling 07912 583285.

Congregational Meeting: Sunday 12th January, 1pm-3pm

In November, the Kirk Session had a wide-ranging discussion regarding the future of our church. Following this, a decision was made by Session to move forward with major refurbishment of our building in 2025/2026, subject to approvals and funding. The details of the project will be presented at a congregational meeting on Sunday 12 January by members of the Futures Committee and our appointed architect. There will be an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation. We will also discuss as a congregation how we can best use our unique building to further our Christian mission and connect with the life of the Covent Garden community on our doorstep. Please do put this important date in your diaries. All are welcome, and lunch will be provided!

Church Email

If you would like to receive our weekly church email, please contact the church administrator at office@crowncourtchurch.org.uk.

Donations under the Gift Aid Scheme

Visitors who are UK taxpayers are invited to make use of the yellow Gift Aid envelopes which are available both in the pews and at the back of the church. Completed envelopes may be placed in the offering plate.

Prayers & Pastoral Support

The Pastoral Care Team often remember people in the congregation in their prayers. If you have any requests for prayers for yourself or someone you know who is ill or bereaved or may simply have a situation in which they would welcome being remembered in prayer, then please contact Rev Scott Rennie.

If you require support, please contact the Pastoral Care Group via the minister – all information is kept confidential.

Church Membership

We are always delighted to welcome new members to Crown Court. If you are a regular attender, but have not yet joined the congregation, we would encourage you to consider becoming a member or an adherent. If you have been a member of a Church of Scotland elsewhere, transferring your membership is a very simple process; please contact Laura Daniels, Church Administrator to ask for your lines to be transferred.

If you are not yet a member of any church and would like to explore your faith journey through baptism or confirmation, please do speak to our minister, Rev Scott Rennie.

Crown Court Church of Scotland

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Follow us on social media

Facebook: @CrownCourtChurchLondonWc2

Instagram: [crowncourtchurchofscotland](https://www.instagram.com/crowncourtchurchofscotland)

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Scottish Charity Number: SC042648

CCLI Licence: 554438



The Church of Scotland