



CROWN COURT  
**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
COVENT GARDEN

**Christmas Day Worship**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 11.15am**

Minister: The Rev Scott Rennie MA BD STM FRSA  
The lessons are read by Mary-Jannet Leith

**God has caused his light to shine in our hearts, the light which is  
knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

*2 Corinthians 4:6*

*Heavenly Father, you sent your Son into the world to take our nature upon him and  
to be born of a pure virgin. Grant that, as we are born again in him, he may  
continually dwell in us and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven, with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

\* Indicates where those who are able should stand

## **VOLUNTARY**

### **WELCOME**

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: In a time of violence and despair,  
an ancient prophet gives good news:  
The people that walked in darkness  
have seen a great light...  
The boots of earth-shaking armies on the march,  
the soldiers’ cloaks rolled in blood,  
are destined to be burnt, food for the fire.  
For a child has been born to us...  
Wide will be the dominion  
and boundless the peace,...  
with justice and righteousness  
from now on, for evermore.  
We light the Christ candle,  
thankful that God has come to us,  
not as a conquering hero  
but as a child, whose faithful, peaceful life  
will follow God’s way of love.

(Isa. 9:2a, 5, 6a, 7c REB)

*Light the Christ candle.*

**P: Living God, come to our world.  
May the love of Christ shine brightly,  
at the centre of our lives,  
spreading warmth and light,  
in us, in this congregation, and everywhere.**

**\* HYMN 301 Hark! The herald angels sing**

MENDELSSOHN (BETHLEHEM)

PRAYERS

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 52:7-10 (pp.739-740)

GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-14 (p.1063)

**\* HYMN 294 On Christmas night all Christians sing**

SUSSEX CAROL

THE INVITATION

**M:** As we welcome Christ in on this Christmas Day, so we gather at this the table which points us to the presence of Christ himself. We look for the risen Christ revealed in the world around us, we meet him here, hosting us at his table of grace and power.

This is the Lord's table.

The Lord Jesus invites us to share in this joyful feast.

From east and west, from north and south,

People will come and take their places at the banquet in the kingdom of God. This table is the Lord's table, and not the table of any church or institution. It is the Lord himself who invites us to feast with him.

## NARRATIVE OF THE INSTITUTION

**M:** Hear the words of the institution of the Lord's Supper, according to St Paul: The tradition which I handed on to you came to me from the Lord himself: that on the night of his arrest the Lord Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God broke it and said: 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in memory of me.'

In the same way, he took the cup after supper, and said: 'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me.' For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord, until he comes.

As the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, I take these elements of bread and wine, to be set apart for all common uses to this holy use and mystery; and as he gave thanks and blessed, let us draw near to God and offer him our prayers and thanksgiving.

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**P:** **And also with you.**

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

**P:** **We lift them to you, Lord.**

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P:** **It is right to praise you, Lord.**

## THE GREAT PRAYER

The Minister makes prayers on the congregation's behalf during which the congregation say:

**P:** **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.**

The Minister makes intercessions on behalf of the congregation after which 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.**

#### THE TRADITION OF THE MEAL

M: We do this in obedience to Christ's example and appointment.  
On the night on which he was handed over to his enemies he took bread and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and said,  
'This is my body which is broken for you; do this in memory of me.'  
In the same way he took the cup saying, 'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me.'

M: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**P: have mercy on us.**

M: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**P: have mercy on us.**

M: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**P: grant us peace.**

#### HOLY COMMUNION

#### SHARING THE PEACE

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

## PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

\*HYMN 306 O come, all ye faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

\* THE BLESSING & SENDING

## POSTLUDE

*Please stand as the elements are processed from the sanctuary.*

## INTIMATIONS:

**Sunday 29 December** Morning service at 11.15am with Rev Scott Rennie.

**Sunday 5 January** Morning service at 11.15am with Rev Scott Rennie.

### Church Administrator Holiday

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](mailto:minister@crowncourtchurch.org.uk), 07967 736 865). For any other urgent queries please contact the Session Clerk Sheena-Jane Clark ([clerk@crowncourtchurch.org.uk](mailto:clerk@crowncourtchurch.org.uk), 07954350899).

### Weekly Church Email

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

## **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!

## **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 confirmation, please do speak to our minister, Rev Scott Rennie.

# Crown Court Church of Scotland

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