

28 December 2025

Christmastide

THIS WEEK AT BRECHIN

Minister: Rev. Katherine Brittain

Music Director and Choir Leader: Tim Weger

Reader: Judy Weibe

Greeters: Brent Richardson & Justine Etzkorn

Power Point: Mary Boyd

Audio Visual: Matt Haapala

Coffee Servers: Bonnie Haapala & Garth Whittome

Italics – leader; **Bold** - congregation

Centering and Land Acknowledgement

Call to Worship

One: Every year we celebrate Christmas.

All: Every month we break bread.

One: Every week we gather for worship.

All: Every day we count our blessings.

One: Every minute God is near.

All: Yes, every minute God is near.

One: These are the rituals of our faith.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

Affirming statement:

All: As an Affirming Ministry we boldly declare that we fully welcome and include the full participation of all people in the life and work of Ministry as we journey together, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, marital status, mental or physical ability, beliefs, cultural backgrounds, or economic circumstance. We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards justice and wholeness for all God's people.

Opening Prayer

One: Gracious God, when our world turns upside down
or when the road ahead is unclear, we return to ritual.

All: We come to the sanctuary. We break bread at table.

We pour water. We greet one another as family.

And we listen to your Word.

One: Today we pray—meet us in this moment.
Meet us in these rituals that anchor us and speak a word of hope.

All: We are listening. We are drawing near. We are seeking you. Amen.

Carol: VU 62 Once in Royal David's City

*(Words: Cecil Frances Alexander 1848, alt
Music: Henry John Gauntlett 1849, harm. Arthur Henry Mann 1849-1928,
desc. David Willcocks 1970)*

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Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who, with God, is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our lifelong pattern; daily,
when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Scripture: Luke 2:21-38

Response:

One: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church*

All: Thanks be to God

Carol

VU 43 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*(Words: John Wesley Work II 1907; Music: African-American spiritual 19th century,
arr. United Reformed Church (U.K.) Arrangement © United Reformed Church.
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Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. R

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth! R

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. R

Reflection: We Root Ourselves in Ritual

Rev Katherine Brittain

Carol

VU 74 What Child is This?

(Words: William Chatterton Dix ca. 1865
Music: English melody, 16th century, harm. Attrib. John Stainer 1871
Public Domain)

1. What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherd watch are keeping?

Refrain: This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear,
for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. R

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. R

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that faith is a journey marked by rituals and rhythms.

We come to worship. We confess our sins. We pass the peace.

We offer grace. We hear the Word. We baptize children.

We break the bread. And we tell the story of a loving God.

And through these sacred rituals, we are reminded:

we are not alone. God is near, and we have work to do.

May this belief shape the rhythm of our lives.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Invitation to Offering

Offering Hymn:

VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter

*(Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872
Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906, Public Domain)*

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on show, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain,
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign,
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast full of milk and a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give him my heart.**

Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (Unison)

**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 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
forever and ever. Amen.**

Announcements: Life and Work of the Church

Carol:

VU 48 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*(Words: Charles Wesley 1739, alt.
Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840, adapt. William Hayman Cummings 1856, Public Domain)*

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! R

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. R

Commissioning and Benediction