

**OPENING MUSIC:** Who would think that what was needed?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwCyLamhFrk>

Who would think that what was needed  
To transform and save the earth  
Might not be a plan or army,  
Proud in purpose, proved in worth?  
Who would think, despite derision,  
That a child should lead the way?  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,  
Monarchs scorn and angels sing;  
Such a place as none would reckon  
Hosts a holy helpless thing;  
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers  
Watch a baby laid in hay:  
God surprises earth with heaven  
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Centuries of skill and science  
Span the past from which we move,  
Yet experience questions whether,  
With such progress, we improve.  
While the human lot we ponder,  
Lest our hopes and humour fray,  
God surprises earth with heaven  
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Music John L. Bell and Graham Maule WGRG The Iona Community  
Please listen to this song, as we will sing it later in the service.

## **WELCOME and NOTICES**

**Call to worship** from Isaiah 60:

Leader: Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!

**All: Darkness has been banished!**

Leader: God's light of hope floods the earth

**All: God's light comes to us all.**

Leader: Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.

**All: Prepare our hearts to receive this Light. Amen.**

**Song:** MP 1045 From the squalor of a borrowed stable

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-6vNR1SK4k>

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!  
Stuart Townend Copyright © 1999 Thankyou Music

## **OPENINGPRAYER**

**ALL-AGE TALK: The three wise women?**

**Song:** CH4 326 As with gladness, men of old  
(<https://youtu.be/UB8rKNrIpDQ>)

As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright:  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore your splendour see.

As with joyful steps they sped  
Saviour, to your lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
you, whom heaven and earth adore:  
so with ever-quickening pace  
may we seek your throne of grace.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at your cradle plain and bare,  
so may we with holy joy  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heavenly king.

Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way,  
and when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last:  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds your glory hide.

In the heavenly city bright  
none shall need created light  
you, its light, its joy, its crown,  
you its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our king.

William C Dix (1837-1898) © Jubilate Hymns Ltd

**READING** (Reader: Geoff Dawe)  
Matthew 2 v 1-18

**Song:** CH4 295 Who would think that what was needed?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwCyLamhFrk>  
See opening music

**REFLECTION: The Empire strikes back!**

**Song:** CH4 543 Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt3Qc04ulOM>

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

**Chorus**

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice. **Chorus**

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. **Chorus**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. **Chorus**

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come. **Chorus**

**PRAYERS for OTHER PEOPLE and OURSELVES** (led by Sheena Dawe)

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

**Song:** CH4 331 Unto us a boy is born  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvnceCVScDI>

Unto us a boy is born!  
The King of all creation,  
Came he to a world forlorn,  
The Lord of ev'ry nation.

Cradled in a stall was he  
With sleepy cows and asses;  
But the very beasts could see  
That he all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:  
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"  
All the little boys he killed  
At Beth'hem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came  
So long ago to love us,  
Lead us all with hearts aflame  
Unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
While the choir with peals of glee  
Doth rend the air asunder.

**THE BLESSING**

*All hymns/songs used on this sheet used by permission: CCL  
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**Penicuik Trinity Community Church  
(Church of Scotland)**



**Welcome to our service  
today**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Theme: A light to all nations**

**Whether you come here regularly,  
or are a visitor,  
we are glad that you can be with us today,  
and hope you'll join us after the service  
in the hall for coffee and fellowship.**

Church website: [penicuiktrinitycommunity.church](http://penicuiktrinitycommunity.church)

**BETHANY MEAL 11<sup>th</sup> January**

**Thank you** for donations received so far – we don't yet have enough money to pay for the meal and would welcome any further donations; please speak to Sheena Dawe (676072) if you would like to contribute.-

**TCC PRAYER MEETING**

**Sunday evenings, 7.15pm in TCC hall**

All are welcome at this informal gathering for prayer.

**THE GUILD, MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

MEETS IN THE HALL AT 2PM

GUEST SPEAKER CAITLYN BURDESS FROM BLYTHSWOOD CARE

**WEDNESDAY HOUSEGROUP BIBLE STUDY**

In the hall committee room on 10<sup>th</sup> January at 10am

For info phone Margaret or Bill 672347

**FRIENDSHIP HOUR**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 1.45pm**

For information phone Margaret 672347

**COFFEE AND CHAT at TCC**

**Every Thursday, 10am till noon,**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

In the church hall at the foot of Kirkhill.

All welcome: come regularly or once in a while; come for 10 minutes, or stay all morning.

**RENEW 26**

Thursdays 2-4pm Glencorse Centre

Fridays 10am – noon, Penicuik North Kirk

**A quiet shared space where it's OK not to be OK**

Contact one of the hosts on 07956738481

or at [renewtwentysix@gmail.com](mailto:renewtwentysix@gmail.com)

**MESSY CHURCH**

Starts again on 28th January 3.30-5.30 pm

in the church hall. More information next week.

**PASTORAL CARE**

Please let us know if you or anyone else you know, would like a telephone call, or a visit at home or in hospital.

Please phone Margaret Webster 672347

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