

## **St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall**

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Scottish Charity SCO 05322/CCL No 119086

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**Minister:** Rev Fraser Macnaughton

**Tel:** 873312

[FMacnaughton@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:FMacnaughton@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Pastoral Minister:** Rev. June Freeth

**Tel:** 721449

[JFreeth@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:JFreeth@churchofscotland.org.uk)

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Welcome to St Magnus Cathedral this morning. It was founded in 1137 by St Rognvald, in honour of Magnus, his uncle. The Cathedral belongs to the people of Orkney and its doors are open to all. If you are a visitor, we hope this order of service will help you feel part of our worship together.

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**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Morning Service 11.15am**

*If you are able please stand at parts marked \**

The congregation is invited to say the words in **bold** print

### **Welcome to Worship**

### **Gathering Music**

### **Lighting of the Christ candle and a time of Silence**

L; To light even one candle is to say to the darkness of oppression:  
'We beg to differ.'

**All; To light a candle is to claim the power to  
make a difference.**

L; May the sparks of the God that is Love  
Ignite our passion for change

**All; Offering the light of hope to all who bravely differ**

*[You may wish to use these words to help focus]*

*I pause for a moment  
and reflect on God's life-giving presence  
in every part of my body, in everything around me, in the whole of my life.*

\* **HYMN** 273 O Come, O come Emmanuel

### \* **Opening Responses**

L; The scene is set. **All; The angels are gathering.**

L; The animals are sheltering. **All; The shepherds are hurrying.**

L; A story will be told **All; and God will be with us.**

### **Gathering Prayer**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle of Love**

All sing remaining seated.

**The candle of love tells what we are worth:  
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!  
An angel brought news of a child who would be  
The one who would save us and set us all free.**

### **"I Will Play My Part"**

**Hymn** 286 Tell out my soul

**Hymn** 296 vs 1,3,4 While humble Shepherds

**Hymn** 324 vs 1,5 Angels from the realms of glory

**Hymn** We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
following yonder star

*O Star of wonder, star of night*

*Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy Perfect Light*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign

Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Pray'r and praising, ev'ryone raising  
Worship Him God most high

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes of life of gathering gloom  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb

Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Earth to heav'n replies

### **Uplifting of the offering**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

#### **\* Sharing the Peace**

'Every Sunday, in this Cathedral, we have a very special time when we greet each other in love and friendship. We welcome everyone who worships here - by shaking hands and saying to each other, 'Peace be with you.'

L; 'peace, is the gift of God to us all.

**All; May the God who spoke to an ordinary woman,  
bring peace into our lives**

L; May the God who came as a vulnerable Child,

**All; and the Spirit join us in songs of joy.**

### **Candle of Remembrance and Hope**

[All sing] Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, he rescues me from death.  
[The candle of Remembrance and Hope is lit.]

[All sing] Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, he leads me into life.

### **A thought for Christmas**

\* **HYMN** 301 Hark the herald angels sing

### **Sending out**

L; All light gathers in this moment, ready to break into the world, but not yet.

**All; All song holds its breath, ready to release hallelujahs, but not yet.**

L; Hold all breath.

**All; The time is soon.**

\* **Benediction**

\* **Choral Amen**