**St Philip’s and St James’**

**Goldenacre**

**31st December 2023**

**11am Holy Communion**

**for New Year’s Eve**

A tree with paper birds and a sign

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For information visit our website [www.stpj.org.uk](http://www.stpj.org.uk)

or email [stjamesgoldenacre@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesgoldenacre@gmail.com)

St James Goldenacre is part of the Scottish Episcopal Church

Welcome to St James this New Year’s Eve for our service of Holy Communion. You are invited to use this time to reflect on the year that is past and look forward in prayer to 2024.

Our beautiful historic church is currently closed due to falling plaster. We will be starting a renovation project in the New Year. In the meantime, please make yourself at home in the hall.

**Children of any age are welcome at St James.** There are toys available, table activities for older children, and space to play in the sitting room next to the hall if required. Please ask a steward.

**Everyone is welcome to receive communion.** Please come forward at the direction of the steward. If you would prefer a blessing, keep your hands crossed in front of you.

Children may receive communion at the discretion of their adults.

Please stay for tea or coffee after the service.

**PREPARATION**

*Please stand if you are able*

**Hymn 683** Thou didst leave thy throne

**The Greeting**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Please sit*

**Welcome**

**Collect for Purity**

**Almighty God to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution**

God is love and we are God’s children.

There is no room for fear in love.

We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*Silence*

**God our Father, we confess to you**

**and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ**

**that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,**

**and in what we have failed to do.**

**We are truly sorry.**

**Forgive us our sins,**

**and deliver us from the power of evil,**

**for the sake of your Son who died for us,**

**Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

God, who is both power and love,

forgive you and free *you* from *your* sins,

heal and strengthen *you* by the Holy Spirit,

and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please stand*

**Gloria**



**Collect**

O God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our Saviour, so we may with confidence behold him as he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

*Sit*

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

First Reading  **Isaiah 61.10-62.3**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,   
    my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
    he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
    and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
    and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
    to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,  
    and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
    and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
    and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
    that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
    and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading **Galatians 4.4-7**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel*

When the Gospel is announced **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

**Luke 2.15-21**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospe**l**

**Praise to Christ our Lord**

*Please sit*

**Reflection**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**The Creed**

*We stand to declare our faith in God.*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God, begotten, not made,**

**of one substance with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father.**

**With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*Please remain standing for*

**The Peace**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:

and his name is called the Prince of Peace.

We meet in Christ’s name.

**Let us share his peace.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

**Hymn 326**  In the bleak midwinter

**THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

**Offertory Prayer**

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,**

**the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;**

**for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.**

**All things come from you, and of your own we give you.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be, and still you

draw the universe to its fulfilment. Dawn and evening celebrate

your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined,

sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.

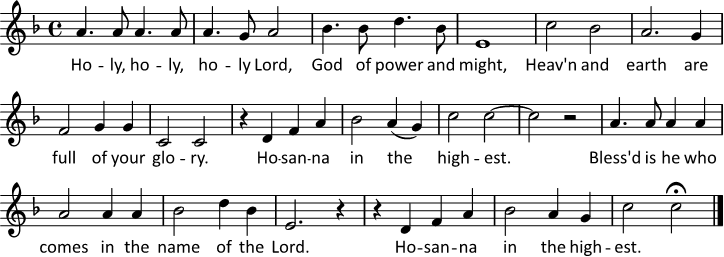
Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your threefold likeness

look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured

and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose, for whom Christ Jesus humbled himself and become poor to make us rich, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**Sanctus and Benedictus**

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*Please sit*

Glory and thanksgiving be to you most loving Father.

In Jesus you showed us yourself.

Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one.

Obedient, even to accepting death,

He opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,

alight with the vision of a feast

that heralded a kingdom yet to come,

at supper with his disciples

he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread,

and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup,

he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:

"Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant;

it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in remembrance of me."

**We now obey your Son’s command.**

**we recall his blessed passion and death,**

**his glorious resurrection and ascension;**

**and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.**

**Made one with him, we offer you these gifts**

**and with them ourselves,**

**a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father,

and send your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon this bread and this wine,

that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,

they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,

and we may be kindled with the fire of your love

and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ’s Body**

**to live and work to your praise and glory;**

**may we grow together in unity and love:**

**until at last, in your new creation,**

**we enter into our heritage**

**in the company of the Virgin Mary,**

**the apostles and prophets,**

**and of all our brothers and sisters**

**living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

with whom, and in whom,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory be to you,

Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen**

**Breaking of the bread**

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

**Do not bring us to the time of trial**

**But deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,**

**Now and for ever. Amen.**

**Agnus Dei**

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**Communion**

*Please follow the guidance of the stewards and the instructions on page 2.*

**THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT**

Give thanks to our gracious God

**Whose mercy endures for ever**

Father of all, the child born for us is the Saviour of the world. May he who made us your children welcome us into your kingdom, where he is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. Amen.

Father**, we have broken the bread which is Christ’s body, we have tasted the wine of his new life. We thank you for these gifts by which we are made one in him and drawn into that new creation which is your will for all mankind, through him who died for us and rose again, your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen**

**Notices**

**Hymn 70** Be thou my vision

**Blessing**

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,

the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary,

and the peace of the Christ child be yours in the year ahead.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to share the Gospel of the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

**Join us for the Burns Supper 7pm Saturday 27th January**

Please book by Weds 17thJan. Email [stjamesgoldenacre@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesgoldenacre@gmail.com)

£12 per head for food, family discount available. If you’d like to perform a poem, song or sketch, email Jane [rector@stpj.org.uk](mailto:rector@stpj.org.uk). Guests welcome.

Contact: Revd Jane MacLaren 07709905528 [rector@stpj.org.uk](mailto:rector@stpj.org.uk) or [stjamesgoldenacre@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesgoldenacre@gmail.com).

Jane is on holiday 1st – 4th January. In case of pastoral emergency, please text her mobile.

Scottish Liturgy 1982 St James’ Goldenacre Registered Charity SC000910 CCL 26375