



ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH

197 Macquarie St, Sydney

An Oasis of Christian Worship, Thought and Action

Minister: Position Vacant
Director of Music: Mark Quarmby
Choral Conductor: Dr David Hood
Organ Scholar: Benjamin McKenzie



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www.ssms.org.au

29 November 2015 – 10 am

Morning Worship

**Advent Sunday and St Andrew's Day,
with the *Kirkin' o' the Tartan.***

Led by Rev. Ross Smith

The Gathering of the People of God

We extend a warm welcome this morning to friends and members of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council, who have come to kirk their tartans. "Kirkin'" means "bringing to church". Although the origins of "kirkin' the tartan" are obscure, with some calling the custom "ancient" and others calling it a "Twentieth Century development", the significance of bringing a family symbol to Church is clear. Kirkin' one's tartan is bringing one's heritage, family, pride, and sense of identity to God. One dedicates oneself to God's service, and seeks God's blessing upon one's household. These are fine things to do, and we are more than pleased to welcome those who bring their tartan to worship.

Organ Prelude

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland - BWV 599

[Now comes the Saviour of the World]

J S Bach (1685 - 1750)

Please stand for the entry of the Bible. Remain standing for the parade and placement of flags and banners, during which Pipe Major Sam Young plays the processional.

Processional - Pipe Major Sam Young

Lochanside (John MacLellan, Dunoon);

The Banks of Allan Water (Traditional)

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all
And also with you.

Call to Worship

Hymn 273 *Lo! He comes with clouds descending*
(Helmsley)

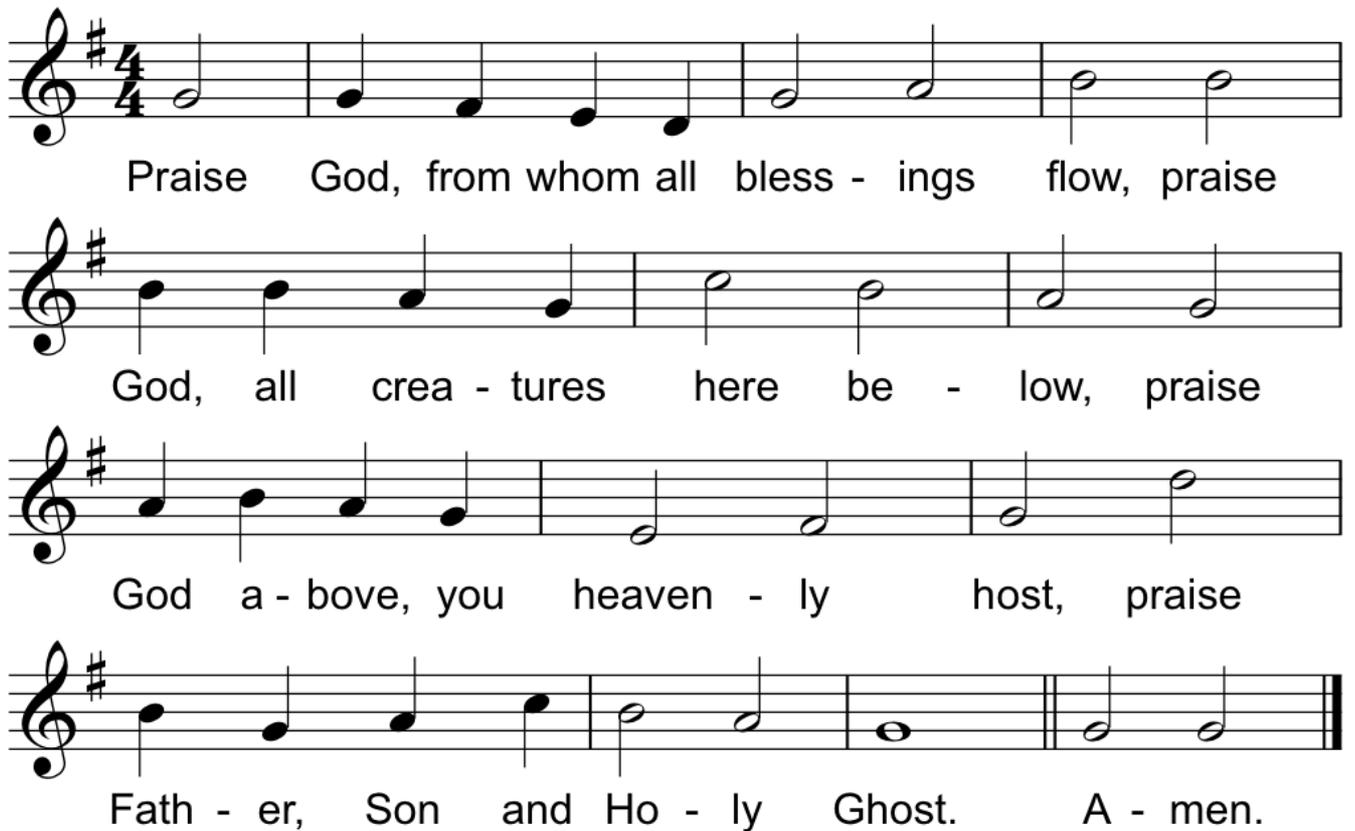
Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

...This is the Gospel.
Thanks be to God.

We stand to sing the...

Doxology 768 *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow*
(i. Old Hundredth)



The image shows the musical notation for the Doxology 768. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here below, praise God above, you heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen." The music is written in a single treble clef.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow, praise
God, all crea - tures here be - low, praise
God a - bove, you heaven - ly host, praise
Fath - er, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

The Presentation of Tartans

While Pipe Major Sam Young plays, members of the congregation are invited to place their tartans before the Holy Table. When all tartans have been presented, the Kirkin' Prayer is said.

Music to be played:

Skye Boat Song (Traditional); *Hector the Hero* (J. Scott Skinner)

Kirkin' Prayer

Read by: Malcolm Nicholson

Lieutenant to John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac
Chief of the Highland Clan MacNeacail.

Almighty and eternal God, we praise and thank you for your goodness to us in our Scottish heritage. We dedicate to you our tartans - the symbols of the unwavering loyalty, steadfast hope and great achievements of our Scottish forebears. We praise and thank you today for the rugged individualism, respect for law and order, the hate of cant and hypocrisy, the regard for human personality and the belief in the equality of all men and women before you that was so important in the lives of our forebears. Today we pray that we may remain always true to these great ideals.

We pray that we may be true to the faith handed down by those who have gone before us; faith which has played such a great part in the building of our country, Australia. May we, and our fellow clansmen and women everywhere, help to bring peace, goodwill, equality and justice to our world. We praise you, O God, for all your faithful servants in every age, and we pray that we, with all who have died in the faith of Christ, may be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of your eternal kingdom. **Amen**

The Service of the Word

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet:
A light to our path.

First Reading *Jeremiah 33: 14-16*

Read by: Geoff Davidson
President of the Clan Davidson Society in Australia

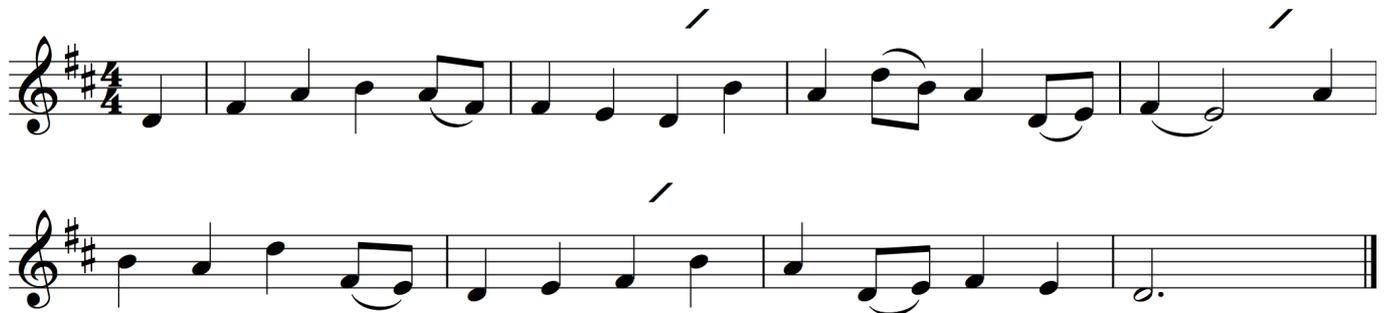
14 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. **15** In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. **16** In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."



Psalm of the Day - Psalm 25: 1-9

(selected verses taken from the *Scottish Psalter*)

Tune: Kilmarnock (*TIS 247*)



- 1 To thee I lift my soul, O Lord:
- 2 My God, I trust in thee:
Let me not be ashamed; let not
my foes triumph o'er me.

- 6 Thy mercies, that most tender are,
do thou, O Lord, remember,
And loving-kindnesses; for they
have been of old for ever.

- 8 The Lord is good and gracious,
he upright is also:
He therefore sinners will instruct
in ways that they should go.

- 9 The meek and lowly he will guide
in judgment just alway:
To meek and poor afflicted ones
he'll clearly teach his way.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

Read by Nea MacCulloch

Deputy President & Treasurer, Scottish Australian Heritage Council

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? **10** Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. **11** Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. **12** And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. **13** And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Anthem

Zion hears her watchmen's voices

Text: Philipp Nicolai (1556 - 1608)

Music: J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

from Cantata Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 140

arr. for SATB by R. Mather

Zion hears her watchmen's voices,
their gladdening cry her soul rejoices,
the shadows of her night depart.
In His might her Lord appeareth,
His word of grace and truth she heareth,
the day-star riseth in her heart.
O come, in splendour bright,
Lord Jesus, Lord of Light!
Hosannah!
We follow Thee, Thy joy to see
where everlasting bliss shall be.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21: 25-36

Read by: Susan Cooke

High Commissioner for Clan Lindsay in Australia and
Hon. Secretary of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council.

25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. **26** People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **27** Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. **28** Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." **29** Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; **30** as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. **31** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. **32** Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. **33** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. **34** "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, **35** like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. **36** Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Lord, may your word live in us:

And bear much fruit to your glory.

Advent Wreath

The Candle of Hope

As we prepare our hearts
for the celebration of the coming of the Christ child,
we light the candle of Hope.
The people of Israel hoped that they would be
delivered from slavery.
They hoped for another King like David.
They hoped to see God coming on the clouds to save them.
They hoped for the restoration of all that had been broken.
We light this candle as people who possess the same hope,
and who have seen the first fruits in Christ
of God answering our hope.

The candle is lit.

O God, we wait for your loving kindness.
Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Hymn 266 *Wake, awake, for night is flying*
(Wachet auf)

Sermon *God is Coming*

Hymn 272 *Come, thou long expected Jesus*
(Stuttgart)

Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

The Sending Forth of the People of God

During the first two verses of the closing hymn, please come and collect your tartans, returning to your seats for the Blessing. During the final verse the minister and his assistants return the flags and banners to the bearers.

Hymn 315 *Mine eyes have seen the glory* (Battle Hymn)

Blessing

... and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ.

Threefold Amen

Recessional - *Pipe Major Sam Young*

The Green Hills of Tyrol (J. MacLeod);
The Battle's O'er (Traditional)

Bible Readings taken from the *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)