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**Highland Perthshire Linked Charge**

**Readings and Services Sunday 22nd December 2024**

Rector: The Reverend Canon Liz Baker

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**Sunday 22nd December 2024 – Advent 4**

**Holy Trinity 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion**

**Kilmaveonaig 4.30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight**

**St Andrew’s 11.15 a.m. Nine Lessons and Carols**

**All Saints 9.30 a.m. no service**

**24th December 8.00pm at Holy Trinity first Communion of Christmas**

**24th December 11.30pm at St Andrews Midnight Mass**

**25th December 9.30am at Holy Trinity Carol Service with simple Communion**

**25th December 11.15am at Kilmaveonaig – All Age Communion**

**25th December 11.15am at St Andrews – Communion by Extension**

**29th December 11.15am Joint Charge Service at Kilmaveonaig for Christmas 1, St Andrews Joint with Church of Scotland.**

**Collect for Advent 4**

**Stir up your power, Lord, and come: and strengthen us by the might of your love; that, although we are hindered by our sins, your abundant grace and mercy may quickly come and save us; for you live and reign with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen**

**READINGS – Advent 4**

**Micah 5:2-5a**

**2** But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
    who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
    one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
    from ancient days.  
**3**Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
    to the people of Israel.  
**4**And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
    in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
    to the ends of the earth;  
**5**and he shall be the one of peace.

    If the Assyrians come into our land  
    and tread upon our soil,   
we will raise against them seven shepherds  
    and eight installed as rulers.

**Hebrews 10: 5-10**

**5**Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
    but a body you have prepared for me;  
**6**in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
    you have taken no pleasure.  
**7**Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God”  
    (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).’

**8**When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), **9**then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. **10**And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45(46-55)**

**Mary Visits Elizabeth**

**39**In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, **40**where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41**When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit **42**and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. **43**And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? **44**For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. **45**And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

**Mary’s Song of Praise**

**46**And Mary said,

‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
**47**    and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
**48**for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
    Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
**49**for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
    and holy is his name.  
**50**His mercy is for those who fear him  
    from generation to generation.  
**51**He has shown strength with his arm;  
    he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
**52**He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
    and lifted up the lowly;  
**53**he has filled the hungry with good things,  
    and sent the rich away empty.  
**54**He has helped his servant Israel,  
    in remembrance of his mercy,  
**55**according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
    to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

**READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Isaiah 52: 7-10**

**7**How beautiful upon the mountains  
    are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
    who announces salvation,  
    who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’  
**8**Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
    together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
    the return of the Lord to Zion.  
**9**Break forth together into singing,  
    you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
    he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
**10**The Lord has bared his holy arm  
    before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
    the salvation of our God.

**Hebrews 1: 1-4 (5-12)**

**God Has Spoken by His Son**

**1**Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, **2**but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. **3**He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4**having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

**The Son Is Superior to Angels**

**5**For to which of the angels did God ever say,

‘You are my Son;  
    today I have begotten you’?

Or again,

‘I will be his Father,  
    and he will be my Son’?

**6**And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

‘Let all God’s angels worship him.’

**7**Of the angels he says,

‘He makes his angels winds,  
    and his servants flames of fire.’

**8**But of the Son he says,

‘Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,  
    and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.  
**9**You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
    with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.’

**10**And,

‘In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
    and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
**11**they will perish, but you remain;  
    they will all wear out like clothing;  
**12**like a cloak you will roll them up,  
    and like clothing they will be changed.  
But you are the same,  
    and your years will never end.’

**GOSPEL: John 1: 1-14**

**The Word Became Flesh**

**1**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2**He was in the beginning with God. **3**All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4**in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**6**There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7**He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8**He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9**The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**10**He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. **11**He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12**But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13**who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14**And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

**Sunday 29th December 2024 – Christmas 1**

**Holy Trinity 9.30 a.m. Joint Charge Holy Communion**

**Kilmaveonaig 11.15 a.m. no service**

**St Andrew’s 10.30 a.m. with the Church of Scotland**

**All Saints 9.30 a.m. no service**

READINGS

Psalm 148

1 Samuel 2: 18-20,26, Colossians 3: 12-17

GOSPEL: Luke 2: 41-52