

**GROOMSPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF SERVICE**

Sunday 1st December 2024 at 11am

Advent Communion Service

Conducted by Rev. Paul Dalzell

Organist: Mrs Isabel Keenan

Preludes

Welcome & Announcements

The first candle of Advent

Prayer

PRAISE 295 Hark the glad sound – the Saviour comes
(Crediton)

- 1 Hark the glad sound! -- the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne
and every voice a song.
- 2 He comes the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before Him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the wounded soul to cure;
and with the treasures of His grace
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with Your beloved name.

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading Galatians 5:13-26 read by Mr Lowry
Manson

PRAISE 471 Freedom and life are ours

- 1 Freedom and life are ours
for Christ has set us free!
Never again submit to powers
that lead to slavery:
Christ is the Lord who breaks
our chains, our bondage ends,
Christ is the rescuer who makes
the helpless slaves His friends.

- 2 Called by the Lord to use
our freedom and be strong,
not letting liberty excuse
a life of blatant wrong:
freed from the law's stern hand
God's gift of grace to prove,
know that the law's entire demand
is gladly met by love.

- 3 Spirit of God, come, fill,
emancipate us all!
Speak to us, Word of truth, until
before His throne we fall:
glory and liberty
our Father has decreed,
and if the Son shall make us free
we shall be free indeed!

Intercessory Prayer

Offering & Prayer

PRAISE 266 Break now the bread of life

- 1 Break now the bread of life,
dear Lord, to me,
as once You broke the loaves
beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page
I seek You Lord;
my spirit longs for You,
O living Word!

- 2 You are the bread of life,
O Lord, to me,
Your holy word the truth
that sets me free;
give me to eat and live
with You above;
teach me to love Your truth,
for You are love.

- 3 Bless now the truth, dear Lord,
to me, to me,
as You did bless the bread
by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease,
all fetters fall,
and I shall find my peace,
my all-in-all.

- 4 O send Your Spirit, Lord,

now unto me,
that He may touch my eyes,
and make me see;
show me the truth concealed
within Your word,
and in Your book revealed
I see You Lord.

Sermon You were called to be free

PRAISE 291 Come, O long expected Jesus (Stuttgart)

- 1 Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set Your people free!
From our fears and sins release us,
Christ in whom our rest shall be.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
born salvation to impart;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart:
- 3 Born Your people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever,
now Your gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By Your own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by Your all-sufficient merit
raise us to Your glorious throne.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table
Communion tokens received
The Apostles' Creed
Prayer

Distribution of the bread and wine

Prayer

PRAISE 390 Now let us from this table rise (Old 100th)
(*Girls and boys return from Kidszone*)

- 1 Now let us from this table rise
renewed in body, mind and soul;
with Christ we die and rise again,
His selfless love has made us whole.
- 2 With minds alert, upheld by grace,
to spread the Word in speech and deed,
we follow in the steps of Christ,
at one with all in hope and need.
- 3 To fill each human house with love,
it is the sacrament of care;
the work that Christ began to do
we humbly pledge ourselves to share.
- 4 Then grant us grace, Companion-God,
to choose again the pilgrim way,
and help us to accept with joy
the challenge of tomorrow's day.

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kidszone Rota

TODAY – Audrey Thomas and Sharon Goldie
8th December – Gift Day Service

Porch Duty Rota

TODAY – June Kirk and Rosemary Gillespie
8th & 15th December – Mandy McEvoy & Joyce Currie

The **Tuesday Club** are pleased to welcome Trevor Price to their Christmas meeting this Tuesday, 3rd December, and we look forward to some Christmas fun. Tickets are £10 and this includes entertainment and refreshments. It is our last open meeting of the year, so come along for some enjoyment."

Wednesday Private Prayer:- Our church is open for private prayer and quiet reflection every Wednesday morning. If you have any pastoral needs, please contact our minister Rev. Paul Dalzell or leave a message with our church secretary.

November Storehouse Donations: Please do consider supporting us with the usual groceries but also with Christmas fayre for our Christmas hampers. We hope to start making up our hampers week beginning 2nd December. This means that we really need our Christmas goodies with us at the beginning of December. Thank you for your help.

'Wednesday Welcome':- The Hub is open on a Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 12 noon. Anyone is welcome to call in, a warm welcome is assured.

Choir practice will not take place on Thursday this week, but rather on **Wednesday evening instead**, 4th December.

Hobby Hub continues on Thursday afternoons at 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for fun and fellowship while sharing interests and skills in a safe relaxing setting.

Pickleball Group also continues on Thursday afternoons 2:30 - 4:40 p.m. If you would like to learn more and see if this is for you, please come along and join the fun. Spectators also welcome.

Christmas Coffee Morning – this Saturday 7th December, 10.30 – 12.00 Noon.

There will be a giving table for donations of cupboard essentials for Storehouse, or a gift of a new toy for Belfast Central Mission Christmas Appeal.

Gift Day Service – Next Sunday 8th December.

PW members are reminded that our Christmas Party will be on Monday 9th December at 7.30pm in Archie Agnew Hall.

Thank You: Mary and I wish to thank you for the many messages, cards, gifts and good wishes during my recent illness. To Paul, Michael and Denis for their pastoral care support, and to all our church family and friends. We wish you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.
(Stewart Holland)

Presbyterian Herald Magazine Subscriptions for 2025

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Anyone else wishing to subscribe can pick up a Subscription Envelope from the Church vestibule, Herald Agent Stephen Dawson (Tel 07901 858373) can be contacted regarding any Herald queries. Please note that the Herald can also be acquired in digital format at a reduced cost of £16-00 for which an annual subscription can be arranged directly on-line via (<http://issuu.com/presbyterianireland>).

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