



The Fourth Sunday in Advent
The Purple Candle of Peace

Sometimes known as the Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation. God kept his promise of a saviour who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means 'to be ready'. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU O GOD. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low, the crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation"

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are always happy to have visitors with us in Cregagh; and we welcome any who may be worshipping with us on this Christmas Eve. It's also great to have any of our members home for the Christmas holidays. We would invite our visitors to sign the Visitor's Book in the Vestibule, giving name and full postal address. This morning any parents with babies are invited to make use of Pebbles Creche or KidZone for 3 year olds upwards (in the Stewart Hall) who leave church after the children's address and hymn.

** The following may help our visitors to share in the service:-

**The Processional and Recessional hymns are not announced – the numbers are on the hymn boards – hymnbooks and Bible are in the pews for your use.

** Please stand (if able) as the service begins when the Bible is carried into church and the Minister and Choir enter, and remain standing until the Minister says "Let us pray"

**The Offering is after the Sermon and is unannounced.

** Please stand as the collectors bring the Offering to the Sanctuary for dedication, and remain standing until after the Recessional hymn and the Minister and Choir leave and the Bible is carried from church.

COFFEE BAR

Refreshments are being served in the Allen Hall after this morning's service and on Christmas Day. Everyone is invited to stay behind for a short while.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

'World Development' (for PCI World Development Appeal) and 'Cregagh Christmas' (for Congregational Mission Projects) envelopes are in the pews over the Christmas period for your use.

CHRISTMAS DAY

The Christmas Day Family Service will be held tomorrow at 9.00 a.m.

OPEN CHURCH

The church will be open for private prayer and meditation as usual on Friday from 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon.

NEXT SUNDAY

Cregagh Presbyterian Church at 11.00 a.m.

Last service in Cregagh for 2023.

Rev McKenzie and the Church Choir.

Cregagh Methodist Church at 4.00 p.m.

'Lights Out' Service of Reflection and Remembrance
 Combined service with Cregagh Methodist, Cregagh Presbyterian and the Salvation Army.

CAN YOU HELP?

Volunteers are needed to help clear the church of the Christmas decorations and trees on Tuesday 2nd January from 9.30 a.m. This task should only take a couple of hours if some helpers come forward. Thank you.

JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 7th at 11.00 a.m.

New Year Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Rev McKenzie and Church Choir.

Epiphany Sunday. Retiring Offering for the Benevolent Fund.

Sunday 7th at 6.30 p.m.

Evening Prayer and Bible Study. (Acts)

Sunday 14th at 11.00 a.m.

Morning Worship

Rev McKenzie and Praise Group.

Sunday 14th at 6.30 p.m.

Café Connect in the Allen Hall

Sunday 21st at 11.00 a.m.

Morning Worship

Rev Ken Connor and Church Choir

Sunday 28th at 11.00 a.m.

Morning Worship

Mr Thomas Clarke and Church Choir

BLOBS

Blobs will meet on Tuesday 9th January at 9.45 a.m. in the McIntyre Suite.

MORNING WATCH

Morning Watch will meet on Tuesday 9th January at 10.45 a.m. in the Session Room.

BREWS BROTHERS

Brews Brothers Men's Group will meet on Tuesday 9th January at 12.30 p.m.

TEA AND TALK

Tea and Talk will meet on Wednesday 10th January at 2.00 p.m. in the McIntyre Suite

YOUTH 'BIG NIGHT'

The next young people's 'Big Night' will be held on Saturday 13th January.

New Year's
EVE
 Worship

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES

Members are reminded that there is only one Sunday left on which to bring your 2023 WFO, Property Fund and United Appeal contributions up to date.

The Congregational finance books will close promptly on 31st December.

MALAWI CALENDAR 2024

A fundraising calendar, in aid of projects in Malawi supported by Cregagh is available today from any member of the Malawi Team. Suggested minimum donation £5.00.

MALAWI STUDENTS

Those who support our Malawi students are reminded that their school fees are now due. New donators would be most welcome.

CALLING ALL ORGANISATIONS

Organisation leaders/secretaries are asked to submit their 2023 activity reports, numbers on roll, and contact details to David Gillespie (07964 150960) and financial reports to Joanne Hewitt (07912 878937) not later than Sunday 14th January.

CHURCH FLOWER CALENDAR

Today is the last opportunity to check the Flower Calendar for 2024. There are still a few available dates for anyone who wishes to supply flowers. For any queries or changes please contact Maureen Mulligan or Dennison Mahood today.

CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

This is the time of the year when church publications have to be ordered.

Any new orders or changes to existing orders should please be intimated to Joan Taylor (Presbyterian Herald) and Dorothy Platt (Wider World).

CHURCH DOORS

In an effort to conserve heat in the church over the winter months the main front church door will remain closed on Sundays during January, February and early March. Entrance to Sunday services may be made through the McIntyre Suite Doors. We would also request that when using the Mother's Circle Doors (beside the pulpit) you remember to close the doors behind you and not leave them lying open. Your cooperation will be very much appreciated.



WEEKLY NEWS SHEET

24th December 2023

The Fourth Sunday in Advent Christmas Eve



*'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son
Is given, and the government shall be upon
his shoulder: and his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God,
the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace'*

Isaiah 9:6

MORNING SERVICE at 11.00 a.m in the Church

Rev McKenzie and the Church Choir

Theme: 'Peace'

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 48:12-22 and Colossians 1: 15-23

EVENING SERVICE at 11.30 p.m. in the Church

Christmas Eve in Cregagh by Candlelight

Rev McKenzie and the Church Choir

Theme: 'The Light of Christmastide'

Scripture Reading: John 1: 1-18

Cregagh Presbyterian Church
102-104 Cregagh Road
Belfast BT6 0ER
Tel: 028 9045 5160
Website: cregaghpresbyterian.org

Minister: Rev Edward J B McKenzie
Tel: 07809 674068
Email: emckenzie@presbyterianireland.org

