

# Church of Scotland

## NESS BANK

[www.nessbankchurch.org.uk](http://www.nessbankchurch.org.uk)

Sunday 4 January 2026 at 11.00 am



1787  
1788 ...  
1901  
1902 ...  
... **2025**  
2026 ...

Minister - Rev Stuart Smith

Organist - Mr Ian Livingstone

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Prelude**

*(Please stand when the Bible is carried in to the church)*

### **Welcome and intimations**

Stuart Smith

### **Call to Worship** *(Congregation standing)*

*In the beginning was the Word*  
**ALL: HE WAS WITH GOD AND WAS GOD**  
*God spoke, and the world was created*  
**ALL: GOD CREATED THROUGH HIM**  
*The Word became a human being*  
**ALL: OUR CREATOR IS AMONG US**

### **Hymn**

### ***'From the squalor of a borrowed stable'***

1. From the squalor of a borrowed stable,  
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith;  
To the anguish and the shame of scandal  
Came the Saviour of the human race.  
But the skies were filled with the praise of  
heaven,  
Shepherds listen as the angels tell  
Of the gift of God come down to man  
At the dawning of Immanuel.

2. King of heaven now the friend of  
sinners,  
Humble servant in the Father's hands,  
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,  
Filled with mercy for the broken man.  
Yes, he walked my road and he felt my  
pain,  
Joys and sorrows that I know so well;  
Yet his righteous steps give me hope  
again –  
I will follow my Immanuel.

3. Through the kisses of a friend's  
betrayal,  
He was lifted on a cruel cross;  
He was punished for a world's  
transgressions,  
He was suffering to save the lost.  
He fights for breath, he fights for me,  
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;  
And with a shout our souls are free –  
Death defeated by Immanuel.

4. Now he's standing in the place of  
honour,  
Crowned with glory on the highest throne,  
Interceding for his own beloved  
Till his Father calls to bring them home!  
Then the skies will part as the trumpet  
sounds  
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;  
But the bride will run to her lover's arms,  
Giving glory to Immanuel.

### **Opening Prayers and the Lord's Prayer**

### **All-Age Talk**

### **Hymn**

**237**

### ***'Look forward in faith'***

*(Children leave for Sunday School)*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

**Reading** 1st Kings 19: 13-21 (OT P356) Jane MacBean

**Hymn** 214 *'New every morning'*

**Sermon** *"Cloaked in Darkness"*

**Anthem** *'Longfellow's Carol'* Allen Percival

## Prayers for Ourselves and Others

**Hymn** 515 *'Soldiers of Christ, arise'*

## Benediction & Choral Amen

## Postlude

### **WELCOME TO NESS BANK CHURCH...**

... especially if you are visiting. Please speak to the welcome team or fill in a pew card to ask questions, seek help, join the congregation or speak to the Minister.

**Mobile Devices** Please switch these off, or to airplane mode, during the service to avoid interfering with the sound system and livestreaming.

**Livestreaming** The front five pews and the front of the church may be included in the camera shot. Please avoid these areas if you wish to avoid being recorded.

**Tea and Coffee** Everyone is invited for tea and coffee in the hall after the service.

### **Supporting Ness Bank**

An offering is taken at the door and dedicated during the service. You can give by cash, cheque, card or phone – or use the QR code here to find our Just Giving page. For regular giving by Standing Order and/or Gift Aid please contact the church administrator.



## **INTIMATIONS**

**Craft Group** The Crafties resume on **Tuesday 6 January** at 10.00am in Room 2. New members always welcome.

**Baby and Toddler Group** The Group resumes on **Wednesday 7 January** and meets in the Main Hall every Wednesday during term time from 9.30-11.30am. All parents and carers with children under 5 are welcome. The cost is £3.00 per family. For further information on the group, please contact Anne Sutherland tel 238238.

**Next Sunday (11 January 2026)** The service will be conducted by Rev Stuart Smith. Tea & coffee will be served in the hall after the service.

**Watchnight Service Offering** The excellent sum of £426.13 was collected at the Watchnight service on 24 December for the work of Inverness Street Pastors.

**The Guild** The Guild Christmas Lunch will be at 1.00pm on **Tuesday 13 January** (12.30 for 1pm) in the Lochardil Hotel. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Anne Sutherland on 07425 154715 or 01463 238238.

## **CONTACT US**

**Minister:** Stuart Smith - 07356 036116, [\*\*stuart.smith@churchofscotland.org.uk\*\*](mailto:stuart.smith@churchofscotland.org.uk)

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**Administrator:** Mary Thomson - 01463 221812, [\*\*nessbankchurch@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:nessbankchurch@gmail.com)  
(Office Hours: 9am – 12noon, Monday to Friday)

[\*\*www.nessbankchurch.org.uk\*\*](http://www.nessbankchurch.org.uk)

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