

**Livingstone Parish Church**  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023**  
**Mr. Sandy Hershaw**  
**New Year's Day Service**

**Hymn 1 CH4 305**

**In the bleak midwinter**

frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter,  
long ago.

Heaven cannot hold Him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when He comes to reign:  
in the bleak mid-winter  
a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air;  
but His mother only,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved  
with a kiss.

What can I give Him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb,  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part,  
yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)

**Hymn 2 CH4 303**

**It came upon the midnight clear,**  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, good will to men  
from heaven's all-gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er it Babel-sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and man at war with man hears not  
the love-song which they bring;  
O, hush the noise and still the strife  
and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when, with the every-circling years,  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

\*Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)

**Hymn 3 CH4 295**

**Who would think that what was  
needed**

to transform and save the earth  
might not be a plan or army,  
proud in purpose, proved in worth?  
Who would think, despite derision,  
that a child should lead the way?  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,  
monarchs scorn and angels sing;  
such a place as none would reckon  
hosts a holy helpless thing.  
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers  
watch a baby laid in hay:  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.

Centuries of skill and science  
span the past from which we move,  
yet experience questions whether,  
with such progress, we improve.  
While the human lot we ponder,  
lest our hopes and humour fray,  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.

John L. Bell (*b.* 1949)  
and Graham Maule (*b.* 1958)

**Hymn 4 CH4 543**

**Longing for light, we wait in  
darkness.**

Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church  
gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

*Christ, be our light...*

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

*Christ, be our light...*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless,  
longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

*Christ, be our light...*

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making Your kingdom come.

*Christ, be our light...*

*Christ, be our light...*

Bernadette Farrell (*b.* 1957)

**Exeunt**

*(Sing Twice)*

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go  
with you,**

wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.

(Celtic Daily Prayer)

Stevenston Livingstone  
Church of Scotland



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**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**