

The Kirking of the Tartans

This is a translation of the Gaelic proclamation:

This bringing before all the sons of Gael that the King and Parliament of Britain have forever abolished the act against the Highland dress that came down to the clans from the beginning of the world to the year of 1746. This must bring joy to every Highland heart. You are no longer bound down to the unmanly dress of the Lowlander. This is declaring every man, young or old, commons or gentle, that they may, after this, put on and wear the trews, the little kilt, the doublet and hose, along with the tartan kilt, without fear of the law of the land or the jealousy of enemies.

The Kirking of the Tartans reflects a tradition of the Church of Scotland, the mother church of the Presbyterian Church. The actual Kirkin of the Tartans was instituted by Dr. Peter Marshall in April of 1941 as a worship service to remember and honor those of Scottish blood that have given so much in the centuries past. This time of blessing reflects a far older tradition, that of the Old Testament practice of the annual renewal of the Covenant. Once a year the people of God would come together, in one place, to renew their commitment to worship and to show obedience to God's commandments. At this time the entire book of Deuteronomy was read. The people would receive blessings for obedience and cursings for disobedience. They committed themselves and their families, their talents and treasures to worship and to serve the Lord for another year.

Following the lead of Dr. Peter Marshall the unified services of prayer spread to the British Isles by the St. Andrew's Society in support of the British War Effort. Thus the Kirkin of the Tartan comes to us today.



TRINITY UNITED

Trinity United Presbyterian Church
1600 Carver Road, Modesto, CA 95350
(209) 529 3228

In Christ Alone

2 Corinthians 3:7-18 NIV

October 26, 2025

www.tupc.org

*Devoted to love for one another, joyfully welcoming the stranger,
eagerly expecting heaven's surprises.*

Hebrews 13:1, 2

CONNECT



Let's Connect!

Fill out our digital connect card to stay updated and *connected* with what's going on and share your prayer requests.

GIVE ONLINE



Easily Give Online!

Thank you for your *generosity* in supporting our church ministries and our mission to reach others with the love and hope found in Jesus Christ.

Have Children?

Childcare (Infants - Pre-K): Available in the Preschool buildings from 8:15-11:15 AM.
Trinity Kids (K-6th): Dismissed during Passing of the Peace. Please pick them up in Covell Hall following the Service.

Rev. Dr. Craig Wright, *Senior Pastor*
Rebecca Duque, *Business Administrator*
Marcy Wright, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Wade Patton, *Interim Director of Youth Ministry*

La Mar Owens, *Music Director-Contemporary*
Wendy Warner, *Music Director-Traditional*
Beverly Vanderlinden, *Organist*

Prelude *In Christ Alone (My Hope Is Found) / The Solid Rock* arr. C. Tornquist

*Hymn #151 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Welcome and Life of the Church

Blessing of the Tartans

Special Music

Doxology
Trinity Kids, Bells

Prayer of Confession

*Hymn #813

Gloria Patri

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 3:7-18 NIV

Sermon

In Christ Alone
Rev. Dr. Craig Wright

*Praise Song

In Christ Alone

Call to Offering

Offertory

On Eagles Wings / Be Thou My Vision

arr. C. Tornquist

Prayer of the People

Benediction

*Hymn #343

Amazing Grace

Postlude

To God Be the Glory

arr. D. Gustafson

**Please stand as you are able*
Recorded Sermons are available on our website
Assisted listening devices are available at the usher desk.

The Kirking of the Tartans

The Background

Kirk is Scottish Gaelic for church, and a kirking is a 'churaching' or a 'blessing.' Although plaids are worn throughout the world, only Scots wear the tartan. People look on the tartan as a multicolored bit of wool. To the Scots, a tartan is steeped in history, saturated with the blood of martyrs, and interwoven with sentiment and tradition.

A clan is a family, and Scots wear the tartan of their clans or families with pride and a sense of history. Each Scottish tartan is distinctive, registered in Scotland and unchangeable. Scottish literature referred to the tartan as early as the 1200s.

The English King prohibited the wearing of the tartans, the kilt, and the playing of the great highland pipes in 1746. This happened after the defeat of the clans and Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden Moor. Anyone caught wearing the tartans or playing the pipes was put to a horrible death. All Scots were required to make the following oath on pain of death. The oath was enforced by an Act of Parliament on August 11, 1746. The oath reads:

I swear, as I shall answer to God on the Great Day of Judgement. I have not, and shall not have in my possession, any gun, sword, or arms whatsoever, and never use any tartan plaid or any part of the Highland garb and, if I do so may I be accursed in my undertakings, family and property, may I never see my wife, nor children, nor father, mother, or relations; may I be killed in battle as a fugitive coward and lie without Christian burial in a foreign land, far from the graves of my forefathers and kindred; may all of this come upon me if I break this oath.

The repeal of this proscription or prohibition occurred in 1782.

