

ORDER OF SERVICE | 13 DECEMBER 2020

# GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME  
TO WORSHIP

**MINISTER**

Rev Dr Richard Frazer

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Rev Ken Luscombe

**PROBATIONARY MINISTER**

Dr Urzula Glienecke

**VISITING MINISTERS**

Rev Anne Ross & Rev Philipp Ross



GREYFRIARS

*life in all its fullness / beatha na lànachd*

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

**Sunday 13 December 2020 – Third Sunday in Advent**

You are very warmly welcomed to Sunday Services at Greyfriars. Whether you are watching online or in person, thank you for joining us today. During in-person services, please ensure that you are following the one-way system, adhering to a two-metre distance from others and staying seated as much as possible in order to create plenty of space between one another. We know things look a little bit different than usual, and we are grateful to you for your adherence to the rules to keep us all as safe as possible. All Sunday services are available in our online library for viewing at any time at [greyfriarskirk.com/online-services](http://greyfriarskirk.com/online-services).

'Christianity is essentially a religion of liberation.'

James H. Cone

### **Greyfriars Bell**

**Welcome and Lighting of the Third Advent Candle:** Rev Philipp Ross

**Prayer of Approach:** Rev Philipp Ross

**Collect for the Day:** *Holy and eternal God, all the hosts of heaven proclaim your glory and the whole creation speaks of your creative majesty. Bless our worship, our artistry and our creativity, and give us the will and power to devote to your service all the powers for life and love that are in us. Make us and all your people joyful, and grant that the praise we offer may nourish the community of faith and be a sign of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

### **Hymn 477:**

1. *Lo, he comes with clouds descending, Christ, the Lamb, for sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.*
2. *Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.*
3. *Those deep wounds of cross and passion still his glorious body bears;  
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshippers;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! See! the day of God appears.*

4. *Yea, amen, let all adore you, high on your eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for your own;  
oh, come quickly, oh, come quickly, oh, come quickly,  
Alleluia! come, Lord, come!*

Charles Wesley

**Readings:** Rev Richard Frazer and Rev Philipp Ross

**Psalm 126**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

**John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said'. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

**Sermon:** Rev Richard Frazer

**Music for Reflection:** "This is the record of John" by Orlando Gibbons

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

Sung by Henry and Amelia Wallace

### **Affirmation of Faith:**

*We believe in God, the source of all life, wholeness, and love. We believe that God is revealed in the life of Jesus Christ in grace, mercy and justice. We believe that in his death, Jesus reveals God's determined presence in the world even in the face of hatred, violence, and pain. We believe that in his resurrection, Jesus reveals God calling us to abundant life both now and forever. We believe that God lives among us, within us, and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe that God moves us to be together in communities of faith, hope, and love. We believe these things not out of certainty but out of faith; as people who trust in the reality of God revealed in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.* Amen

### **Hymn 465:**

1. *Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought, by day or by night;  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*
2. *Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou my great Father; thine own I would be,  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.*
3. *Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*
4. *Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise;  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*
5. *High King of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

8th c. Irish, tr. Mary Elizabeth Byrne

**Pastoral Prayer, Lord's Prayer and Blessing:** Rev Philipp Ross

**Organ:** Henry Wallace:

"Komm heiliger Geist Herr Gott", by Dietrich Buxtehude