

ORDER OF SERVICE | 20 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 20 December 2020 – Fourth 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.

Images of Mary remind us of God's favour. Mary is what it looks like to believe that we already are who God says we are.

Nadia Bolz-Weber, Accidental Saints:
Finding God in All the Wrong People

Greyfriars Bell

Organ: Henry Wallace: "Gottes Sohn ist kommen", BWV 600, by J. S. Bach

Welcome and Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: Rev Anne Ross

Prayer of Approach: Rev Anne Ross

Hymn 317:

- 1. Before the world began, one word was there;
grounded in God he was, rooted in care;
by him all things were made, in him was love displayed,
through him God spoke and said 'I am for you.'*
- 2. Life found in him its source, death found its end;
light found in him its course, darkness its friend;
for neither death nor doubt nor darkness can put out
the glow of God, the shout 'I am for you.'*
- 3. The Word was in the world which from him came;
unrecognised he was, unknown by name;
one with all humankind, with the unloved aligned,
convincing sight and mind 'I am for you.'*

4. *All who received the Word by God were blessed,
sisters and brothers they of earth's fond guest.
So did the Word of grace proclaim in time and space,
and with a human face, 'I am for you.'*

John L Bell and Graham Maule
from John 1: 1-13

Reading: Elizabeth Cumming

Luke 1: 26 – 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

Hymn 173:

1. *Sing to God new songs of worship – all his deeds are marvellous;
he has brought salvation to us with his hand and holy arm:
he has shown to all the nations righteousness and saving power;
he recalled his truth and mercy to his people Israel.*
2. *Sing to God new songs of worship – earth has seen his victory;
let the lands of earth be joyful, praising him with thankfulness:
sound upon the harp his praises, play to him with melody;
let the trumpets sound his triumph, show your joy to God the king!*
3. *Sing to God new songs of worship – let the sea now make a noise;
all on earth and in the waters, sound your praises to the Lord!
Let the hills be joyful together, let the rivers clap their hands,
for with righteousness and justice he will come to judge the earth.*

Michael Baughen, from Psalm 98

Sermon: Rev Philipp Ross

Music for Reflection: Henry Wallace

Adagio, from Organ Sonata No.1 in C minor, Op.65, by Felix Mendelssohn

Affirmation of Faith:

*Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour,
for he looks with favour upon us and sees our unrealized potential.*

*In the tradition of Mary, and all who have said "yes" to God,
we stand here today, to add our assent to theirs.*

*Like Mary, we feel overwhelmed; we wonder if we are worthy,
or capable, of following the calling.*

Like Mary, we have our questions and we will not be afraid to ask them.

Like Mary, we will hear and ponder the assurance that God will empower us.

Like Mary we will strive to say - "Let it be with us according to your will."

*To whatever God is inviting of us at this time in our lives,
and relying on God's grace, we say "yes."*

Amen

Pastoral Prayer, Lord's Prayer and Blessing: Rev Anne Ross

Poem: The Expostulation of the Virgin Mary, read by the Rev Anne Ross

Tell me, some pitying angel tell, quickly say,
Where does my soul's sweet darling stay?
In tiger's, or more cruel Herod's way?
O! rather let his little footsteps press
Unregarded through the wilderness,
Where milder savages resort:
The desert's safer than a tyrant's court.
Why, fairest object of my love,
Why dost thou from my longing eyes remove?
Was it a waking dream that did foretell
Thy wondrous birth? no vision from above?
Where's Gabriel now that visited my cell?
I call Gabriel, he comes not; flatt'ring hopes, farewell.

Me Judah's daughters once caress'd,
Call'd me of mothers the most bless'd;
Now fatal change of mothers most distress'd.
How shall my soul its motions guide,
How shall I stem various tide,
Whilst faith and doubt my lab'ring thoughts divide?
For whilst of thy dear sight beguil'd,
I trust the God, but oh! I fear the child.

Nahum Tate

Organ: Henry Wallace: "Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottesohn", BWV 601, by J. S. Bach

Your offering for the work of the Church will be gratefully received by the door on your way out.