

ORDER OF SERVICE – 27 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 27 December 2020 – First Sunday after Christmas

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.

A tradition has developed of Elders conducting the last Service of the year to give the Ministers a Sunday off after the hectic Christmas Season. Bert Kerrigan QC has taken the role of 'anchor-man', and the other participating Elders are mentioned.

Today, 400 years after the Dedication of this Church, we take as our theme the outstanding Ministries particularly that of Dr Robert Lee whose prayers we join in.

Organ: Angus Tully: Two old French carols, by César Franck

Call to Worship

Hymn 378:

1. *Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depths be praise, –
In all his words most wonderful, most sure in all his ways.*
2. *O loving wisdom of our God! when all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight and to the rescue came.*
3. *O wisest love! that flesh and blood, which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe, should strive and should prevail.*
4. *O generous love! that he who smote in Man, for man, the foe,
the double agony in Man for man should undergo.*
5. *And in the garden secretly, and on the Cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire to suffer and to die.*
6. *Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depths be praise;
In all his works most wonderful, most sure in all his ways.*

John Henry Newman

Call to Prayer and Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

The Lord's Prayer, in the form Dr Lee used:

Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen

Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate word. Grant that this light enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

Greyfriars Succession of Ministers

Jo Elliot, Session Clerk

The Word of God

Epistle: Galatians 4: 4-7

Reader: Jamie Sutherland

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

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

Hymn 600:

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe, show us the Saviour's love.*

- 1. You spoke to us long, long ago, gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth, through it God's voice is heard.*
- 2. Without your help we fail our Lord, we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength, following Christ each day.*

Margaret Old

Sermon – The Favour of the Lord

Prof. Bert Kerrigan QC

The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Music for Reflection: Adagio in A flat, from the 1st Organ Concerto, by Felix Mendelssohn

Hymn 530:

- 1. One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new keep me travelling along with you.
And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with you.*
- 4. Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough;
leap and sing in all I do, keep me travelling along with you.*
- 5. You are older than the world can be, you are younger than the life in me;
ever old and ever new, keep me travelling along with you.*

Sydney Carter

Benediction

Organ: Adagio, from the Fantasia in C, by César Franck

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