

ORDER OF SERVICE – 16 MAY 2021

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTER

Rev Dr Richard Frazer

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev Ken Luscombe

VISITING MINISTERS

Rev Anne Ross & Rev Philipp Ross



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 16 May 2021 – Sunday after Ascension

You are very warmly welcomed to Sunday Services at Greyfriars. All our services are available in our online library for viewing at any time at greyfriarskirk.com/online-services.

Organ: Farewell to Stromness

Peter Maxwell Davies

Welcome and Call to Worship: Rev Richard Frazer

Hymn 436:

1. *Christ triumphant, ever reigning, Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining, hear us as we sing:
Yours the glory and the crown, the high renown, the eternal name!*
2. *Word incarnate, truth revealing, Son of Man on earth!
Power and majesty concealing by your humble birth:*
3. *Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated, victim crucified!
Death is by the cross defeated, sinners justified:*
4. *Priestly king, enthroned for ever high in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never stifle hymns of love:*
5. *So, our hearts and voices raising through the ages long,
Ceaselessly upon you gazing, this shall be our song:*

Michael Saward

Prayer of Approach: Rev Richard Frazer

Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, you have raised your only Son to the right hand of your glory, and bestowed on him the name above all names. Assure us that as he reigns with you in heaven so he abides with us on earth to the end of time; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and is glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Word of God

Acts 1: 1 – 11

Reader: Amelia Wallace

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Luke 24: 44 - 53

Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

Anthem:

Coelos ascendit hodie Jesus Christus Rex gloriae. Sedet ad Patris dexteram, gubernat coelum et terram. Jam finem habent omnia patris Davidis carmina. Jam Dominus cum Domino sedet in Dei solio. In hoc triumpho maximo benedicamus Domino. Laudatur Sancta Trinitas. Deo dicamus gratias.

(Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, has ascended today into the heavens. He sits at the right hand of the Father and rules heaven and earth. Now all the psalms of our father David are fulfilled. Now the Lord sits with the Lord on the throne of God. In this greatest of triumphs let us bless the Lord. Let the Holy Trinity be glorified, and let us give thanks to God.)

Charles Villiers Stanford

Sermon: Rev Richard Frazer

Hymn 445:

1. *Alleluia, sing to Jesus! His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
'Jesus, out of every nation, has redeemed us by his blood.'*
2. *Alleluia, not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us, faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise, 'I am with you evermore'?*

3. *Alleluia, bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.*
5. *Alleluia, sing to Jesus! His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
'Jesus, out of every nation, has redeemed us by his blood.'*

William Dix

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*

Pastoral Prayer: Rev Richard Frazer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 641:

1. *Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you; allelu, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
2. *Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; allelu, alleluia.*
1. *You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord; allelu, alleluia.*

Karen Laffety

Benediction

*May the God of peace go with us as we travel from this place;
May the love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace.*

Organ: Fanfare

Kenneth Leighton