

ORDER OF SERVICE – 5 SEPTEMBER 2021

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ken Luscombe
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 5 September 2021 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

You are very warmly welcomed to Sunday Services at Greyfriars. All our services are available on our YouTube channel for viewing at any time at bit.ly/greyfriarstv.

This morning we welcome the Lord Provost, the Rt. Hon. Frank Ross; this year's Captain and Lass Elect 2021, Jay Sturgeon and Abbie McDowell; and other participants in the Edinburgh Riding of the Marches.

Organ: Tranquillo ma con moto, from Six Short Pieces No.1

Herbert Howells

Welcome and Call to Worship: Rev Richard Frazer

Hymn 165:

1. *Praise to the Lord for the joys of the earth: cycles of season and reason and birth, contrasts in outlook and landscape and need, challenge of famine, pollution, and greed.*
2. *Praise to the Lord for the progress of life: cradle and grave, bond of husband and wife, pain of youth growing and wrinkling of age, questions in step with experience and stage.*
3. *Praise to the Lord for the care of our kind: faith for the faithless and sight for the blind, healing, acceptance, disturbance and change, all the emotions through which our lives range.*

Introduction to the Blessing Ceremony: Rev Richard Frazer

Blessing of the Edinburgh Riding of the Marches

Lord Provost: Jay Sturgeon, it is with great pleasure that I now complete your installation as Edinburgh Captain 2021 by entrusting you with the City of Edinburgh Banner, and charge you to inspect the boundaries of our Capital City. I ask that you return this Banner to me in one week from today, unsullied and unstained.

Captain Jay Sturgeon: My Lord Provost, on behalf of the people of the City of Edinburgh, and by the trust invested in me, I promise to return the city banner to you in one week's time at the Mercat Cross, unsullied and unstained.

Prayer for the City and for the Common Riding: Rev Richard Frazer

Hymn 165:

4. *Praise to the Lord for the people we meet, safe in our homes or at risk in the street: kiss of a lover and friendship's embrace, smile of a stranger and words full of grace.*
5. *Praise to the Lord for the carpenter's son, dovetailing worship and work into one: tradesman and teacher and vagrant and friend, source of all life in this world without end.*

John L. Bell and Graham Maule

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon: Rev Ruth Halley

Collect for the Day: *Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that richly bearing the fruit of good works, we may by you be richly rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* Amen

The Word of God

James 2: 1 – 10 and 14 – 17

Reader: Leslie Munro

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Mark: 7: 24 – 37

From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

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

Sermon: Rev Richard Frazer

Anthem:

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you for ever, even the spirit of truth.

St John 14: 15-17

Thomas Tallis (1505-85)

Affirmation of Faith: *We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the one God, maker and sustainer of earth, sea and sky. Born of Mary's womb, Jesus healed the sick, served the poor, and proclaimed heaven on earth. He died, but transformed even death, and rose to life so that he might journey with us. He blessed his disciples with his Holy Spirit and sent them forth, east and west, north and south. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as brothers and sisters, and to his mission in the world, by the grace of the Holy Spirit.* Amen

The Bringing forward of the Offerings and Prayers

Glory to God the Father, the unbegotten one; all honour be to Jesus, his sole-begotten Son; and to the Holy Spirit – the perfect Trinity. Let all the worlds give answer, 'Amen, so let it be.'

Pastoral Prayer: Rev Ruth Halley

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.

(sung 3 times)

(Where there is caring and love, God is there.)

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 710:

1. *'I have a dream,' a man once said, 'where all is perfect peace;
where men and women, black and white, stand hand in hand, and all unite,
in freedom and in love, in freedom and in love.'*
2. *But in this world of bitter strife the dream can often fade;
reality seems dark as night, we catch but glimpses of the light Christ sheds on humankind.*
3. *Fierce persecution, war, and hate are raging everywhere;
God calls us now to pay the price through struggles and through sacrifice
of standing for the right.*
4. *So dream the dreams and sing the songs, but never be content;
for thought and words don't ease the pain: unless there's action, all is vain;
faith proves itself in deeds.*
5. *Lord, give us vision, make us strong, help us to do your will;
don't let us rest until we see your love throughout humanity uniting us in peace.*

Pamela J. Pettitt

Benediction

Amen

Organ: Moderato e ben marcato, from Four Sketches (for pedal piano) No.2 Robert Schumann