

ORDER OF SERVICE – 3 OCTOBER 2021

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

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



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 3 October 2021 – Harvest

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.

We are no more qualified to be the stewards or developers of the Earth than are goats to be gardeners... The idea that humans are yet intelligent enough to serve as stewards of the Earth is among the most hubristic ever

James E. Lovelock, in *The Revenge of Gaia: Earth's Climate Crisis & the Fate of Humanity*

Organ: Mère Marie de l'Incarnation, from Suite Carmelite

Jean Françaix

Welcome and Call to Worship: Rev Richard Frazer

Hymn 172:

1. *Sing for God's glory that colours the dawn of creation,
racing across the sky, trailing bright clouds of elation;
sun of delight succeeds the velvet of night, warming the earth's exultation.*
2. *Sing for God's power that shatters the chains that would bind us,
searing the darkness of fear and despair that would blind us,
touching our shame with love that will not lay blame, reaching out gently to find us.*
3. *Sing for God's justice disturbing each easy illusion,
tearing down tyrants and putting our pride to confusion;
lifeblood of right, resisting evil and slight, offering freedom's transfusion.*
4. *Sing for God's saints who have travelled faith's journey before us,
who in our weariness give us their hope to restore us;
in them we see the new creation to be, spirit of love made flesh for us.*

Kathryn Galloway

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect for Harvest:

*God of faithfulness, your generous love supplies us with the fruits of the earth in their seasons.
Give us grace to be thankful for your gifts, to use them wisely, and to share our plenty with others;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen

The Word of God

Ruth

Reader: Stephanie Rae

So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest. Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, 'Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favour.' She said to her, 'Go, my daughter.' So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, 'The Lord be with you.' They answered, 'The Lord bless you.' Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, 'To whom does this young woman belong?' The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, 'She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, "Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers." So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment.'

Then Boaz said to Ruth, 'Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.' Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, 'Why have I found favour in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?' But Boaz answered her, 'All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!'

Mark 4: 26 - 34

Jesus also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.' He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

Hymn 685:

1. *For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*
2. *For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair.*
3. *For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands kind and wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong.*
4. *For just and unjust a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mind-set of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live.*
5. *For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free.
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

Shirley Elena Murray

Sermon: Rev Richard Frazer

Anthem: A Gaelic Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you, deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you, moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you, deep peace of Christ to you.

John Rutter

Affirmation of Faith:

We believe in God in whom is power and compassion.

*We believe in the Creator who gave birth to the universe, set solar systems dancing in space,
shaped molecules and mountains, and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.
God's power topples tyrants, and brings down walls of separation;
God's love embodies the tenderness of a mother and father,
encouraging and caring for each of us.*

*We believe in Jesus, born in obscurity in an occupied land; a human being, vulnerable
to hunger, thirst, persecution and grief. He understood the power of love
and confronted the powers of evil, spoke the truth with courage and clarity,
forgave his enemies and changed lives. In his living, dying and rising again
he showed love strong enough to save the world.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit who sustains, comforts and empowers us, opens the scriptures,
opens our minds, and illuminates earth's darkness.*

Amen

Dedication of the Offering

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

(over)

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession and Commemoration: Rev Richard Frazer

Leader: Ruth, Naomi and Orpah were destitute, in need of refuge.
We pray for an end to poverty.

All: *Bring us your harvest of justice and peace.*

Leader: Ruth was a foreigner, of the 'wrong' religion and race.
We pray for an end to war and the hatred that feeds it.

All: *Bring us your harvest of justice and peace.*

Leader: Ruth, Naomi and Orpah were women, with fewer rights than men.
We pray for an end to discrimination and the violence it feeds.

All: *Bring us your harvest of justice and peace.*

Leader: Boaz had power – land, money and authority.
We pray for all who hold power in our complex world.

All: *Bring us your harvest of justice and peace.*

Leader: Ruth, Naomi and Orpah were grieving. We pray for an end to suffering.

All: *Bring us your harvest of justice and peace.*

Leader: Ruth found a home with Naomi and Boaz.
May we find community between us, and a home with you.

All: *Bring us your harvest of justice and peace.*

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 238:

1. *Lord, bring the day to pass when forest, rock, and hill,
the beasts, the birds, the grass, will know your finished will:
when we attain our destiny and nature lives in harmony.*
2. *Forgive our careless use of water, ore, and soil —
the plenty we abuse supplied by others' toil:
save us from making self our creed, turn us towards each other's need.*
3. *Help us, when we release creation's secret powers,
to harness them for peace, our children's peace and ours:
teach us the art of mastering in servant form, like Christ our King.*
4. *Creation groans, travails, futile its present plight,
bound — till the hour it hails God's children born of light:
that we may gain our true estate, come, Lord, new heavens and earth create.*

Ian Masson Fraser

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: Mère Marie de Saint-Augustin, from Suite Carmelite

Jean Françaix

NOTES

Festival of Science, Wisdom & Faith, Greyfriars Kirk, 22-24 October 2021

There are those who say that science supersedes religion, rendering faith redundant. But reverence for the natural world, finding the answers to help humanity flourish and sustain the earth community, in all its diversity, are spiritual pursuits too, and many scientists attest urgent questions cannot be answered by science alone.

As we look forward to the 26th UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow this November, join Greyfriars Kirk, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and other guests, for a weekend of events that celebrate what happens when experts and those interested in a variety of fields seek knowledge and truth together.

Time Travel with Greyfriars Kirk and the Royal Society of Edinburgh,
Friday 22 October, 7.00 - 9:30pm

Three short sessions explore some of the people and events over the last 400 years that helped change humanity's understanding of the world, and continue to have impact today:

Witches of Scotland: "17thC Scotland: What it was like to be of that time, that place"

Stuart Monro, FRSE: "James Hutton: Enlightenment thinker with a legacy for the present day"

Rebekah Widdowfield: "RSE Futures Commission:

Debate and dialogue, academia and all of us"

A Sustainable World: Great Questions Lead to Great Works,
Saturday 23 October, 4.00 - 6:30pm

Do scientific knowledge or faith make us wiser? How do we determine what questions to ask and explore? Three talks explore how we can anticipate challenge and seek a sustainable world for all:

Prof. Wilson Poon, FRSE: "Educating 21stC Scientific Citizens in Wisdom"

Prof. Liz Grant, FRSE: "Fundamental to Flourishment: The Science & Practice of Compassion"

Alastair McIntosh: "Climate Science & Healing of the Nations"

Special Worship Service, "We cannot do anything against the truth" (2 Cor. 13: 8),
Sunday 24 October, 11.00 am

Find out more and book your space here:

<https://greyfriarskirk.com/festival-of-science-wisdom-and-faith>

With thanks to our partners: The Church of Scotland - Society, Religion & Technology;
Augustine United Church; St Columba's by the Castle.

Early Christmas News: Members of the congregation, with their families and friends, will soon be invited to attend and participate in singing for BBC Scotland's Christmas Eve Watchnight service recording at the Kirk on Saturday 27 November, 7.00 – 10.00 pm.