

ORDER OF SERVICE – 31 OCTOBER 2021

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

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



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 31 October 2021 – Twenty-third 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.

Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith,
and to possess the kingdom he has promised to those who love him?

James 2:5

Organ: Benedictus, from Messe Pour les Paroisses

Francois Couperin

Welcome and Call to Worship: Gillian Couper

Hymn 485:

1. *1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.*
2. *In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word rise up, and follow thee.*
3. *O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity, interpreted by love!*
4. *With that deep hush subduing all our words and works that drown
the tender whisper of thy call,
as noiseless let thy blessing fall as fell thy manna down.*
5. *Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.*
6. *Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire, O still small voice of calm!*

John Greenleaf Whittier

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon: Gillian Couper

Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, your servant Abraham obeyed your call, rejoicing in your promise that in him all the families of the earth should be blessed. Give us faith like his, that in us your promises may be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

The Word of God

Ruth 1:1 - 18

Reader: Colin Graham

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.' Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, 'No, we will return with you to your people.' But Naomi said, 'Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.' Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said,

'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;

Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die — there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Mark 12: 28 -34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered,

The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself", — this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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

Anthem: Psalm 121

1. *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help.*
2. *My help cometh even from the Lord who hath made heaven and earth.*
3. *He will not suffer thy foot to be moved, and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.*
4. *Behold he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*
5. *The Lord himself is the keeper; the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand.*
6. *So that the sun shall not burn thee by day, neither the moon by night.*
7. *The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil, yea it is even he that shall keep thy soul.*
8. *The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth for evermore.*
9. *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*
10. *As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen*

Chant by Walford Davies

Sermon: Gillian Couper

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.

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*

Hymn 153:

1. *Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not, as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.*
*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided – great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*
2. *Summer and winter, seed time and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

3. *Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.*

Thomas Chisholm

Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessèd is he, O blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Partaking of the Elements

Music for Reflection: "The Holy Boy"

John Ireland
Victoria Irvine, piano

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pastoral Prayer: Rev Ruth Halley

Hymn 598:

- 1 *Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire, let us thine influence prove;
source of the old prophetic fire, fountain of life and love.*
2. *Come Holy Ghost, for moved by thee the prophets wrote and spoke;
unlock the truth, thyself the key: unseal the sacred book.*
3. *Expand thy wings, celestial Dove, brood o'er our nature's night;
on our disordered spirits move, and let there now be light.*
4. *God through himself we then shall know, if thou within us shine,
and sound, with all thy saints below, the depths of love divine.*

Charles Wesley

Benediction

Amen

Organ: Plein chant du premier Sanctus en Canon
Recit de Cornet from Messe pour les Paroisses

Francois Couperin

