

ORDER OF SERVICE – 28 NOVEMBER 2021

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 28 November 2021 – First Sunday in Advent

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.

The prophetic tasks of the Church are to tell the truth in a society that lives in illusion, to grieve in a society that practices denial, and to express hope in a society that lives in despair.

Walter Brueggemann

Organ: Ricercar pro Tempore Adventus

J. K. F. Fischer

Welcome and Call to Worship

Hymn 273:

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
3. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
4. O come, thou key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
5. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

18th century antiphon
tr. John Mason Neale

Call to Prayer and Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

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

Collect for the Day: *Living God, you are beyond our imagining, a mystery that words cannot express. Yet, at this Advent season, we are invited to imagine you beside us. A helpless child in need of a mother's love, a young man with the wind upon his face, full of future plans, a friend with a passion for caring for the least of these. Fill us with love and anticipation, that our worship and our waiting through this season might lead us to new adventures with you. In your loving name we pray.*

Amen

A Time for All – The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

All: *The holly and the ivy are dancing in a ring,
 round the berry-bright red candles and the white and shining King.*

*And one is for God's people, in every age and day,
who are hoping for Christ's coming. May we always watch and pray.*

*The holly and the ivy are dancing in a ring,
 round the berry-bright red candles and the white and shining King.*

The Word of God

Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16

Reader: Anne Bradbury

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Luke 21: 25 – 36

Jesus said 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

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

Hymn 21 (Psalm 25):

1. *Lord, teach me all your ways, reveal your paths to me;
 and lead me in your saving truth, show me what I should be.*
2. *Remember, Lord, your love, your care from ages past;
 and in that love remember me, in kindness hold me fast.*
3. *Forget my youthful faults, forgive my sinful ways;
 within the kindness of you love remember me always.*
4. *God, who is just and good, shows all who sin his way;
 he leads the humble in right paths, their teacher day by day.*
5. *All pathways of the Lord are kindly, true, and sure
 to those who keep his covenant and in his ways endure.*

Scottish Psalter

Sermon

Anthem: Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin birth;
let ev'ry age adoring fall; such birth befits the God of all.
Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to man displayed.
The virgin womb that burden gained with virgin honour all unstained;
the banners there of virtue glow; God in his temple dwells below.
Forth from his chamber goeth he, that royal home of purity,
a giant in twofold substance one, rejoicing now his course to run.
From God the Father he proceeds, to God the Father back he speeds,
his course he runs to death and hell, returning on God's throne to dwell.
O equal to thy Father, thou! Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
the weakness of our mortal state with deathless might invigorate.
Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, and darkness breathe a newer light,
where endless faith shall shine serene, and twilight never intervene.
All laud, eternal Son, to thee whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost for evermore. Amen.

St. Ambrose (340 – 397),
tr. John Mason Neale & others

Michael Praetorius (1571 – 1621),
arr. David Willcocks

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

Dedication of the Offering

Tune: Gartan

*Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

(over)

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: *Reverie*, by Claude Debussy

Victoria Irvine, piano

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn 477:

1. *Lo, he comes with clouds descending, Christ, the Lamb, for sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.*
2. *Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.*
3. *Those deep wounds of cross and passion still his glorious body bears;
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshippers;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! See! the day of God appears.*
4. *Yea, amen, let all adore you, high on your eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for your own;
oh, come quickly, oh, come quickly, oh, come quickly, Alleluia! come, Lord, come!*

Charles Wesley

Benediction

Amen

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: On a theme of Orlandon Gibbons (Song 22), Op.105 No.2

Charles V. Stanford

EDINBURGH'S CHRISTMAS 2021

NATIVITY CAROL CONCERT

Sunday 28 November 2021

3pm

Free

St Andrew Square

Everyone is welcome to come along and sing Christmas Carols with **St Columba's Choir** and the **Salvation Army Brass Band** at the annual Nativity Carol Concert.

The collection this year is for Bethany Christian Trust.



The Moderator of Edinburgh Presbytery, Dr Derek Browning will give the Christmas message; Bishop John Armes brings prayers for the city and Archbishop Leo Cushley blesses the Nativity Scene.