

ORDER OF SERVICE – 12 DECEMBER 2021

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 12 December 2021 – Third 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.

Organ: "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland", BWV 660

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Call to Worship: Professor Bert Kerrigan QC

Hymn 465:

1. *Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art –
thou my best thought, by day or by night; waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*
2. *Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou my great Father; thine own I would be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.*
3. *Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight; be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*
4. *Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only first in my heart, high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*
5. *High King of heaven, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

8th c. Irish, tr. Mary Elizabeth Byrne

Call to Prayer and Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

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

Collect for the Day:

*God of power and mercy, you call on us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes he may find us waiting
in awe and wonder for him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.*

Amen

Reflection – ‘Let there be Light’
and
The Lighting of the Third 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 three for John the Baptist, who calls on us to sing:
"O, prepare the way for Jesus Christ. He is coming - Christ the King."
 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

Isaiah 12

Reader: Alison Noble

You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Hymn 237:

1. *Look forward in faith, all time is in God's hand.
 Walk humbly with him and trust his future plan.
 God has wisely led his people by his power.
 Look forward in hope, he gives us each new hour.*
2. *Look forward in faith, the world is in God's care.
 His purpose of love he calls on us to share.
 In our neighbour's need the Lord is present still.
 He blesses the meek! The earth will know God's will.*
3. *Look forward in faith, God gives us life each day.
 Go onward with Christ, his Spirit guides our way.
 Now God lets us live within the sphere of grace.
 Trust ever in him, he rules o'er earth and space!*

Andrew J. Scobie

Luke 3: 10 - 18

The crowds asked John, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong

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

1. *You spoke to us long, long ago, gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth, through it God's voice is heard.*
2. *Without your help we fail our lord, we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength, following Christ each day.*

(over)

Hymn 474:

1. *Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity*
2. *He comes with succour speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong.,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.*
3. *He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.*
4. *For him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The mountain dews shall nourish a seed, in weakness sown,
whose fruit shall spread and flourish and shake like Lebanon.*
5. *O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever; that name to us is Love.*

James Montgomery

Benediction

Organ: Short Prelude and Fugue in B flat major

J.S. Bach