

ORDER OF SERVICE – 19 DECEMBER 2021

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 19 December 2021 – Fourth 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 659

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Call to Worship: Rev Richard Frazer

Hymn 281:

1. *People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.*
2. *Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.*
3. *Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Star is on the way.*
4. *Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

Eleanor Farjeon

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

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

Collect for the Day: *Holy and eternal God, all the hosts of heaven proclaim your glory and the whole creation speaks of your creative majesty. Bless our worship, our artistry and our creativity and give us the will and power to devote to your service all the powers for life and love that are in us. Make us and all your people joyful, and grant that the praise we offer may nourish the community of faith and be a sign of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

All: *The holly and the ivy are dancing in a ring,
round the berry-bright red candles at the hope the Christ Light brings.*

*And four for Mother Mary: "I cannot see the way,
but I trust in you for this baby. I believe you, I obey."*

*The holly and the ivy are dancing in a ring,
round the berry-bright red candles at the hope the Christ Light brings.*

The Word of God

Luke 1: 26 – 38

Reader: Dr Alison Elliot

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

Hymn 285:

1. *The Angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail, ' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!*
2. *'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold; most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!*
3. *Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, 'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name': most highly favoured lady. Gloria!*
4. *Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, 'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!*

Basque carol, *adapted* Sabine Baring-Gould

Sermon

Anthem:

I sing of a maiden that is makeless; King of all kings to her son she ches.
He came all so still where his mother was, as dew in April that falleth on the grass.
He came all so still to his mother's bower, as dew in April that falleth on the flower.
He came all so still where his mother lay, as dew in April that falleth on the spray.
Mother and maiden was never none but she; well may such a lady God's mother be.

Anonymous, c. 1400

Patrick Hadley

Affirmation of Faith: *Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour, for he looks with favour upon us and sees our unrealized potential. In the tradition of Mary, and all who have said "yes" to God, we stand here today, to add our assent to theirs. Like Mary, we feel overwhelmed; we wonder if we are worthy, or capable, of following the calling. Like Mary, we have our questions and we will not be afraid to ask them. Like Mary, we will hear and ponder the assurance that God will empower us. Like Mary we will strive to say - "Let it be with us according to your will." To whatever God is inviting of us at this time in our lives, and relying on God's grace, we say "yes."* Amen

The Confirmation of Hilary Clydesdale

The Promise of the People: Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice that Hilary has been confirmed. Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that she may grow in grace and in the knowledge of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and so be a source of strength and blessing to her family, friends and the whole community?

Response of the People: *With God's help we will.*

Pastoral Prayer: Rev Ruth Halley

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 319:

1. *Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.*
2. *By his word was all created; he commanded; it was done;
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one;
all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun, evermore and evermore.*
3. *O that birth for ever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Spirit's power conceiving, bore the Saviour of our race,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.*
4. *This is he whom seers and sages sang of old with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore.*
5. *All the heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions bow before him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.*
6. *Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore.*

Prudentius, tr. J.M. Neale and H.W. Baker

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: "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland", BWV 659

J.S. Bach