

ORDER OF SERVICE – 24 December 2021

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper



GREYFRIARS

life in all its fullness / beatha na lànachd

Christmas Worship

Friday 24 December 2021 – Christmas Eve

You are very warmly welcomed to services at Greyfriars. All our services are available on our YouTube channel for viewing at any time at bit.ly/greyfriarstv.

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

Organ: Chorale Prelude on "In dulci jubilo"

Dietrich Buxtehude

Hymn 315 (verses 1 and 2, choir only; verses 3 and 4, all):

1. Once in Royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. *And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.*
4. *Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by
We shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,
When, like stars, his children crowned all in white shall wait around.*

Cecil Frances Alexander

Bidding and Prayer: Rev Richard Frazer

ending with:

All:

*Infant Jesus, truly human and truly frail: your greatness holds the universe,
your lovely image attracts our hearts, your goodness beckons all that is good in us,
your wisdom searches us, your truth-telling sheds light on our darkness,
your generosity enriches our poverty, your friendship consoles the unwanted,
your strength turns away all evils, your justice deters wrong-doing,
your power conquers fear, your love kindles our cold hearts,
your miraculous hand fills our hands with blessings, your mercy brings forgiveness.
Have mercy on us this night, give us a glimpse of your glory, for your glory fills eternity. Amen*

Lesson 1: Genesis 1: 1 – 5, 26 - 28

Reader: Rev Ruth Halley

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

Choir:

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bound;
four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
as clerkes finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady a-been heavenè queen.
Blessèd be the time that apple taken was,
therefore we moun singen *Deo gracias!*

15th c. traditional

Peter Warlock

Lesson 2: Isaiah 9: 2, 6 – 7

Reader: Emily Mann

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hymn 294:

1. *On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.*
2. *Then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?*
3. *When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
heaven and earth with joy may sing, all for to see the new-born King.*
4. *All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God, on earth be peace, goodwill to all shall never cease.'*

English traditional

Lesson 3: Luke 1: 26 – 32

Reader: Anne Bradbury

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.'

Choir:

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little child, is he within?
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?
May we stroke the creatures there, ox, ass or sheep?
May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?
If we touch his little hand, will he awake?
Will he know we've come so far just for his sake?
Great kings have precious gifts, and we have naught.
Little smiles and little tears are all we brought.
For all weary children Mary must weep,
here on his bed of straw, sleep, children, sleep.
God's in his mother's arms; babes in the byre,
sleep as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

Frances Chesterton

West Country Carol

Lesson 4: Luke 2: 1 – 7

Reader: Jamie Sutherland

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn 305:

- In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter long ago.*
- Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain,
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*
- Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.*
- Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but only his mother, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the Belovèd with a kiss.*
- What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part, yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.*

Christina Rossetti

Lesson 5: Luke 2: 8 – 20

Reader: Maggie Cormack

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn 304:

1. *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in your streets is shining the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.*
2. *O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King and peace to all on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.*
3. *How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*
4. *O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

Phillips Brooks

Lesson 6: Matthew 2: 1 – 12 (Lorimer)

Reader: Leslie Munro

Jesus wis born at Bethlehem in Judaea I the days o King Herod, an it wis nae time efter his birth or a curn spaemen frae the Aist cam tae Jerusalem an begoud speirin, "Whaur is the King o Jews at hes come hame eenou? We saw the risin o his stairn, an ar come wast for tae worship him." King Herod wis sair pitten about tae hear that, an een sae wis the hail o Jerusalem. Sae he convened aa the Heid-Priests an Doctors o the Law in the kintra an speired at them whaur the Christ wis tae be born. "At Bethlehem in Judaea," said they, "een as the Prophet says in his buik:

'An thou, Bethlehem i the Laund o Judah, is naegate the least amang the Clans o Israel, for frae thee will gang furth a leader at will herd my people Israel'."

Herod then caa'd the spaemen til him in hidlins, an whan he hed lairnt frae them the day an hour o the stairn's kythin, he sent them awa tae Bethlehem, biddin them gang their waas an seek out aa the speirins they coud win at anent the bairn: "An whan ye hae fund him," go he, "bring me back wurd, sae at I may gae an wurship him myself."

They did een as the King had baud them, an tuik the gate; an, behaud, thair wis the stairn gaein on afore them, on an on, or it stappit abuin the houss whaur the bairn wis; an byous blythe war they tae see the stairn! Syne they gaed ben, an saw the bairn, wi Mary his mither; an they fell on their knees an wurshippit him, an apnin their treisur-kists, they laid gifts afore him — gowd, an frankincense, an myrrh. Than thet fuir awa hame anither gate nor they hed come, sin they hed been warnished in a draim no tae gae back til Herod.

Hymn 309:

1. *Still the night, holy the night! Sleeps the world; hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in stable bare watch o'er the Child, belovèd and fair,
Sleeping in heavenly rest, sleeping in heavenly rest.*
2. *Still the night, holy the night! Shepherds first saw the light,
heard resounding clear and long, far and near, the angel-song,
'Christ the Redeemer is here! Christ the Redeemer is here!'*
3. *Still the night, holy the night! Son of God, O how bright
love is smiling from thy face! Strikes for us now the hour of grace,
Saviour, since thou art born! Saviour, since thou art born!*

Joseph Mohr

Lesson 7: John 1: 1 – 14 (KJV)

Reader: Isobel Hutchings

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Address

Rev Ruth Halley

Hymn 306:

1. *O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*
2. *God of God, Light of light, lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*
3. *Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God in the highest': O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Latin, 18th c.

Prayers of concern and hope: Rev Richard Frazer

The Collect for Christmas Eve:

All-embracing God, bound in mystery beyond the stars, but made clear in the stable that was lit up by a star: this night is radiant with the brilliance of your message of love, peace and good will to all. As we go from here, may we bring that light into our homes, and the places where we work, meet people and make plans. May the light of the Bethlehem stable be a light to guide us in the year to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Amen

Hymn 301:

1. *Hark! The herald angels sing 'Glory to the new-born king;
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.'
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic hosts proclaim 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark! the herald angels sing 'Glory to the new-born king'.*
2. *Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing 'Glory to the new-born king'.*
3. *Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth:
Hark! the herald angels sing 'Glory to the new-born king'.*

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: Fantasia on "In dulci jubilo", BWV 729

J.S. Bach