

ORDER OF SERVICE – 23 January 2022

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 23 January 2021 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

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.

Consider how great is the love which the father has bestowed on us
in calling us his children!

1 John 3: 1

Organ: "Herr Gott, nun schleuss den Himmel auf", BWV 617

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Call to Worship: Gillian Couper

Hymn 5 (Psalm 8):

1. *O Lord, our Lord, throughout the earth how glorious is your name,
and glorious too where unseen heavens your majesty proclaim.
On infant lips, in children's song a strong defence you raise
to counter enemy and threat, and foil the rebel's ways.*
2. *When I look up and see the stars which your own fingers made,
and wonder at the moon and stars, each perfectly displayed,
then I must ask, 'Why do you care? Why love humanity?
And why keep every mortal name fixed in your memory?'*
3. *Yet such as us you made and meant just less than gods to be;
with honour and with glory, Lord, you crowned humanity.
And then dominion you bestowed for all made by your hand,
all sheep and cattle, birds and fish that move through sea or land.
O Lord, our Lord, throughout the earth how glorious is your name!*

John L. Bell

Prayers of Adoration, Confession and Pardon: Gillian Couper

Leader: . . . hear us, Lord.

All: *We glorify you, O Lord.*

Leader: . . . hear us, Lord.

All: *We praise you, O Lord.*

Leader: . . . hear us, Lord.

All: *We worship you, O Lord.*

Leader: . . . hear us, Lord.

All: *We thank you, O Lord.*

Leader: . . . hear us, Lord.

All: *We confess that we have turned from your ways. We have harmed your good creation through our greed. We have polluted and poisoned the air, earth and waters, destroying habitats and species.*

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

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: *We have acted selfishly towards our brothers and sisters. We have put our own needs and desires above our commitment to justice. We have built walls between us and planted seeds of mistrust.*

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: *Christ have mercy. We have divided people based on ethnicity and culture, discriminating instead of celebrating difference. We have waged war, claiming Jesus for our side.*

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: *Christ have mercy. Forgive all these thoughts and deeds, O Lord, as we come before you in repentance.*

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: *Christ, have mercy.*

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: *Christ, have mercy.*

Leader: Almighty God hears our prayers, has mercy on us and forgives our sins.

All: *Thanks be to God, whom we praise with all our voices.*

Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Hymn 251:

1. *I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*
2. *I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my Word to them. Whom shall I send?*
3. *I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?*

Daniel L. Schutte

The Word of God

Nehemiah 8: 1 - 3, 5 - 6 and 8 - 10

Reader: Amelia Wallace

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Luke 4: 14 - 21

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

1 Corinthians 13: 1 - 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see

in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

Sermon: Gillian Couper

Dedication of the Offering

*To Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, and is, and shall be evermore.*

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession and Commemoration: Rev Richard Frazer

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: *hear our prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 130:

1. *Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim, and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol; his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.*
2. *God ruleth on high, almighty to save; and still he is nigh, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.*
3. *'Salvation to God who sits on the throne!' let all cry aloud, and honour the Son:
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim, fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.*
4. *Then let us adore, and give him his right: all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honour and blessing, with angels above, and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.
Amen, amen.*

Charles Wesley

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: "In dir ist Freude", BWV 615

J.S. Bach