

ORDER OF SERVICE – 20 MARCH 2022

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 20 March 2022 – Third Sunday of Lent

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: "Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein", BWV 641

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Call to Worship: Rev. Richard FRazer

Hymn 124:

1. *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
praise God, my soul, for in him are your health and salvation;
come all who hear, into his presence draw near, joining in glad adoration.*
2. *Praise to the Lord, who in all things is wondrously reigning,
shields you from harm and is gently but firmly sustaining.
Have you not seen how your heart's wishes have been granted by God's wise ordaining?*
3. *Praise to the Lord, who with blessing and power will defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you;
ponder anew what the Almighty can do: God will for ever befriend you.*
4. *Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again: gladly for ever adore him.*

Joachim Neander,
tr. *Catherine Winkworth

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

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

Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, if the hour has come to make the break, help us not to cling, even though it feels like death. Give us, in this season of Lent, something of the inward strength of our Redeemer Christ, to lay down some parts of our life and let them go, so that we may be free to take up whatever new and fuller life you have prepared for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Hymn 361:

1. *Forgiveness is your gift, both cleansing and renewing,
to catch us when we drift. Our base desires pursuing;
and hug us back to life and bring us to a feast
where all will celebrate the life your love released.*
2. *Your grace goes out to meet the sinful and the doubting,
your arms and dancing feet speak louder than all shouting:
O God, how great your love which takes us empty in,
and, with our worth unproved, lets better life begin.*

Ian Masson Fraser

The Word of God

Isaiah 55: 1 – 9

Reader: Rebecca Grant

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 13: 1 – 9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

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

Hymn 43 (Psalm 63):

1. O God, you are my God alone, whom eagerly I seek,
though longing fills my soul with thirst and leaves my body weak.
Just as a dry and barren land awaits a freshening shower,
I long within your courts to see your glory and your power.
2. Your faithful love surpasses life, evoking all my praise.
Through every day, to bless your name, my hands in joy I'll raise.
My deepest needs you satisfy as with a sumptuous feast.
So, on my lips and in my heart, your praise has never ceased.
3. Throughout the night I lie in bed and call you, Lord, to mind;
in darkest hours I meditate how God, my strength, is kind.
Beneath the shadow of your wing, I live and feel secure;
and daily as I follow close, your right hand keeps me sure.

John L. Bell

Sermon

Music for Reflection: from the Lost Songs of St Kilda

(Alison Gregson, piano)

Affirmation of Faith:

(based on Philippians 2: 6-11)

We believe in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And, being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God. Amen

Dedication of the Offering

*Praise God, the source of life and birth; praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
praise God the Spirit, holy flame; all glory, honour to God's name.*

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 565:

1. My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation;
I catch the sweet, though far off, hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?
2. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul — how can I keep from singing?
3. What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord, my Saviour, liveth.
What though the darkness round me close? Songs in the night he giveth.
4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing.
All things are mine, since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

Robert Lowry and Doris Plenn

Benediction

Amen

Organ: Attende Domine, from Le Tombeau de Duruflé

David Briggs

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Thursday 24 March	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 27 March	11.00 am: Holy Communion 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Sunday 3 April	9.30 am: Holy Communion 11.00 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service

Greyfriars Lunchtime Concerts

The popular Greyfriars lunchtime concerts at 12 noon on Thursdays continue this Thursday, 24 March, with a horn recital by the findHorn Quartet. Admission is free.

Refreshments

With the easing of social restrictions, we are now able to offer biscuits and tea or coffee after our Sunday Service, hoping that this will be a welcome opportunity for those who feel comfortable and able to attend. There is plenty of room for social distancing, with tables and chairs set out appropriately, but please don't take off your face covering until seated.

The catering team would welcome volunteers to help with this service. If you would like to help out, or to find out more, please contact the Kirk office, who will put you in touch with Isobel and Margaret: email communications@greyfriarskirk.com or telephone: 0131 225 1900.

Pastoral Care and Staying in Touch

The ministry team and pastoral volunteers at the church enjoy staying in touch with folk in the congregation and community. It is great to hear how folk are getting on, share news about what is going on in the life of the community, enjoy friendship and support each other when it is needed. If you would like to chat, or you know someone that might need some help or would simply enjoy hearing from us, please do get in touch. The ministry team and elders welcoming people at the door are always happy to talk before or after Sunday Services, and will put you in touch with the pastoral team, or you can contact Gillian by email: parishassociate@greyfriarskirk.com or by phone: 07808 472 464.

If you would like to speak to a minister, Richard or Ruth will be very pleased to hear from you too: Richard by phone on 07715 069 041 or by email at minister@greyfriarskirk.com, or Ruth by phone on 07530 307 413 or by email at associate.minister@greyfriarskirk.com.