

ORDER OF SERVICE - 11 DECEMBER 2022

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 11 December 2022 – Third Sunday of 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: Méditation

Maurice Duruflé

Organ Introit: "Gottes Sohn ist kommen", BWV 600

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Call to Worship: Rev Richard Frazer

Hymn 281:

Besançon

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

Call to Prayer and 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

Hymn 590:

Yr Hun Gân

1. *Holy Spirit, gift bestower, breathe into our hearts today.
Flowing water, dove that hovers, Holy Spirit, guide our way.
Love inspirer, joy releaser, Spirit, take our fears away.
Reconciler, peace restorer, move among us while we pray.*
2. *Holy Spirit, Christ proclaimer, wisdom bringer, light our way.
Fire that dances, wind that whispers, Holy Spirit, come today.
Ease disturber, comfort bearer, move among us while we pray.
Truth revealer, faith confirmer, rest within our hearts today.*

The Word of God

Reader: Anne Bradbury

Psalm 126

(a version by Carla A. Grosch-Miller)

When the miracle happened; when the hoped for, dreamed of, prayed for, longed for, ached for, pleaded for miracle happened; when you acted beyond our expectations or imagination, we were open-mouthed. We pinched ourselves. Can this be true? Is it true?

Then delight began in our toes and rippled its way to the top of our heads.

Laughter and tears erupted. We clapped our hands. We danced with joy.

This is God's doing, we said, the Holy is.

Even our sceptical neighbours noticed: Is this God's doing? they muttered. Can God save me? they wondered.

Act again, great God, with unmistakeable power. We bring our need to You – our poverty of spirit, our deep hungers, the work of our hands and minds, the mistakes we've made, the seeds we've sown.

Make our barren places fruitful and our emptiness to overflow. Free us from our manifold captivities and set us on a broad plain. Fill our mouths with laughter again and our hearts with songs of joy.

Matthew 11: 2 - 11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another? Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

Anthem:

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

John 1: 19-23

Orlando Gibbons

Sermon

Affirmation:

We welcome Jesus, child of God, gift of joyfulness in a world of bleakness.

We welcome Jesus, child of God, gift of peace in a violent world.

We welcome Jesus, child of God, gift of hope in a despairing world.

We welcome Jesus, child of God, gift of wisdom in a foolish world.

We welcome Jesus, child of God, gift of justice in a world of unfairness.

We welcome Jesus, child of God, gift of forgiveness in an unforgiving world.

We welcome Jesus, child of God, gift of love in a bitter world.

Amen

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 in the day or the night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*
2. *Be thou my Wisdom, be 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, the 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

The Baptism of George Timothy Ewen Gillespie

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Congregational Commitment:

Do you welcome George, and do you renew your commitment, with God's help, to live before all children in a kindly, encouraging and Christian way, and to share with them the knowledge and love of Christ?

All: *We do. We will nurture one another in faith, uphold one another in prayer, and encourage one another in service.*

The Offering

The Holly and the Ivy

*Four seasons with their harvest supply the food we need,
and the Spirit gives a harvest that can make us rich indeed.*

*So, Father, we would thank you for all that you have done,
and for all that you have given us through the coming of your Son.*

Pastoral Prayer

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 477:

1. *Lo, he comes with clouds descending, Christ, the Lamb, for sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.*
4. *Yea, amen, let all adore you, high on your eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for your own;
oh, come quickly, oh, come quickly, oh, come quickly, Alleluia! come, Lord, come!*

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: Postlude in D minor, Op.105 No.6

Charles Stanford

NOTES

Forthcoming Services:

Thursday 15 December	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 18 December	11.00 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Christmas Service
Saturday 24 December	5.00 pm: Service of Lessons and Carols, with organ music from 4.35 pm.
Sunday 25 December	10.30 am: Holy Communion

This morning we welcome Olivia and James Gillespie for the baptism of their son George, with all their family and friends.

Refreshments

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.

Giving with Gift Aid

When giving to the Kirk through a cash offering during the service, do please use the Gift Aid envelope that you will find in the backs of the chairs. If you are a UK taxpayer we can reclaim a further 25p in the £ by way of tax refund, without cost to yourself. If you have already completed an envelope in full on a previous occasion, or completed a Gift Aid declaration, you need only fill in your name and the amount. Thank you so much for your support, which we depend on to maintain the life of the Kirk.

Times of Sunday Services

From 1 January 2023, morning worship will be at **10.30** am, and from 5 February, early Communion will be at **9.15 am**. Gaelic service times will be unchanged.

GCP Christmas Appeal

Jonny Kinross, the CEO of GCP, writes: 'This winter, we are acutely aware of people in Edinburgh who are lonely and isolated and those who suffer from poverty and mental illness. There are many who have nowhere to call home. We are asking you to donate to our Christmas Appeal 2022, either for yourself or on behalf of a loved one. Please donate to help transform lives this winter - <https://grassmarket.org/christmas-appeal-2022/> See how your donations can make a REAL difference. Thank you!'

Coffee Saints at GCP

Do drop in to the new café space at the Greyfriars Grassmarket Centre, which is now open as Coffee Saints, like our café beside St Mary's Cathedral at the top of Leith Walk. As always, there will be good food, good value and a lovely atmosphere, and all helping our vulnerable members. Thanks.

Guerilla Peace

The University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy and their Associate Chaplain Dr Urzula Glienecke have set up a web site <https://guerillapeaceukraine.org> to answer the call to “Light up our hearts for Ukraine”; they invite you to visit it to share the solidarity, vigilance, and hope, wherever you are in the world at any time and from anywhere.

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.