

ORDER OF SERVICE - 18 DECEMBER 2022

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 18 December 2022 – Fourth 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: "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland", BWV 659

J. S. Bach

Organ Introit: Ricercar pro Tempore Adventus

J. C. F. Fisher

Call to Worship: Rev Ruth Halley

Leader: We become a community when we show each other love and acceptance.

All: *Let us now gather in God's community, for God has done great things for us.*

Leader: God has looked with favour on us.

All: *May we strive to be as generous as God.
May our house be welcoming and open to all.*

Leader: God has lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry with good things.

All: *May we give our good things, our best things, back to God.*

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

Hymn 273:

Veni Emmanuel

1. *O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*
2. *O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.*
3. *O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.*
4. *O come, thou key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.*
5. *O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.*

18th century antiphon, tr. John Mason Neale

Welcome and The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Call to Prayer and Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord:
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.*

Collect for the Day: *May the trust of Mary, troubled by her strange call, and Joseph's encouragement beside her through all, be God's gift to us. May the radiant brightness and light of the star, and the hope and the longing of the searchers travelling from afar, be God's gift to us. May the wonder of shepherds surprised by glory and the joy of angels, messengers of hope, be God's gift to us. May the peace of the Christ-child, cradled in an old wooden trough and loved by the grace of a devoted mother, be God's gift to us.* Amen

A Christmas Parcel

Anthem: Magnificat in B flat major

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden: for behold from hence forth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him, throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm, he hath scatterèd the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath fillèd the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promisèd to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

St Luke 1: 46-55

C. Villiers Stanford

The Word of God

Luke 1: 39 - 55

Reader: Hilary Clydesdale

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Matthew 1: 18 - 25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Hymn 295:

White Rosettes

1. *Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth
might not be a plan or army, proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision, that a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.*
2. *Shepherds watch and wise men wonder, monarchs scorn and angels sing;
such a place as none would reckon hosts a holy helpless thing.
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers watch a baby laid in hay:
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.*
3. *Centuries of skill and science span the past from which we move,
yet experience questions whether, with such progress, we improve.
While the human lot we ponder, lest our hopes and humour fray,
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.*

John L. Bell and Graham Maule

Sermon

Hymn 291:

Kingsfold

*and during which, **The Offering***

1. *When out of poverty is born a dream that will not die,
and landless, weary folk find strength to stand with head held high,
it's then we learn from those who wait to greet the promised day,
'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart. Be blest; prepare the way!'*
2. *When people wander far from God, forget to share their bread,
they find their wealth an empty thing, their spirits are not fed.
For only just and tender love the hungry soul will stay,
and so God's prophets echo still 'Be blest; prepare the way!'*
3. *When God took flesh and came to earth, the world turned upside down,
and in the strength of woman's faith the Word of Life was born.
She knew that God would raise the low, it pleased her to obey.
Rejoice with Mary in the call, 'Be blest; prepare the way!'*

Kathryn Galloway

Prayer of Dedication

Pastoral Prayer: Anne Bradbury

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 286:

Woodlands

1. *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.*
2. *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.*
3. *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.*
4. *Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!*

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Benediction

Amen

Organ: "Meine Seele erhebt den Herren", BWV 733

J. S. Bach

NOTES

Forthcoming Services:

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
Sunday 1 January	10.30 am: Morning Worship
Sunday 8 January	10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service

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.

Study Service

The topic of this evening's Study Service is "The Hiddenness of God."

Why does God not make himself much more obvious? Why his often puzzling hiddenness? And what is the relevance of Jesus' "seek and you will find..."?

The Study Service meets by Zoom from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm. For the Zoom link, email Bob Walker at bob@hebrides.u-net.com.

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.