

ORDER OF SERVICE - 24 DECEMBER 2022

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper



Christmas Eve

Organ Music

Partita on "Sei gegrüßet, Jesu gütig", BWV 768

J. S. Bach

"Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen"

Johannes Brahms

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

Organ: "In dulci jubilo"

Dietrich Buxtehude

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

Irby

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

Welcome and Call to Worship: Rev Ruth Halley

Prayer of Approach

then a **Prayer for All:**

Leader: Come, royal messenger, sender and summoner, put the glory back in all we do.

All: *The door is open, open our hearts.*

Leader: Come, Bethlehem child, the cradle awaits you, for we have need of you.

All: *The door is open, open our hearts.*

Leader: Come, Redeemer, Lamb without blemish, come to the lost and the blamed
and the battered, the outsider and the ones who are shunned,
the people who wake in the night afraid of the morning, the terrified and the torn,
the exhausted and the weary, the ones who are sure they are forgotten.

All: *The door is open, open our hearts. Amen*

Lesson 1: Genesis 1: 1 – 5 and 26 - 28

Reader: Rosemary Scott

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Choir:

Long, long ago in Bethlehem the Christ child came,
with no one but the Mother sweet
to warm his little hands and feet, and know his name.
How wonderful to think that He was God of all!
No sign of heaven's bright estate,
to show that he was rich and great, that babe, so small!
Yet thousand angels worshipped him on that dark night;
to their dear Lord, on reverent knee,
poor shepherds knelt, made wise to see by heav'nly light.
Still in the long dark winter hours the Christ child comes;
Have we no place, O children dear?
Must we not wish to keep him here, in our own homes?
O Christ child sweet, our infant king! We children pray,
make in our hearts a little place
where we may keep Thee, by Thy grace, on Christmas Day.

Evelyn Beale

Henry Davan Wetton

Lesson 2: Isaiah 9: 2 and 6 – 7

Reader: Margaret Wallace

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Hymn 309:

Stille Nacht

1. *Still the night, holy the night! Sleeps the world; hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in stable bare watch o'er the Child, beloved 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, tr. S. A. Brooke

Lesson 3: Luke 1: 26 – 32

Reader: Bert Hutchings

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.

Choir: Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber, holy angels guard thy bed;
heav'nly blessings without number softly falling on thy head.
Lulla, lulla, lulla, lullaby, lullaby, lullaby.
May we see the lowly cradle where the newborn Saviour lay;
ox's manger for his cradle; for his bedding, straw and hay.
Lulla, lulla, lulla, lullaby, lullaby, lullaby.
Holy Child, may we revere thee, trust and love thee all our days,
then go dwell for ever near thee, see thy face and sing thy praise.
Lulla, lulla, lulla, lullaby, lullaby, lullaby.

Isaac Watts (adapted)

Chris Hutchings

Lesson 4: Luke 2: 1 – 7

Reader: Anne Bradbury

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David: to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Choir: Within a stable lay a maiden, virgin pure and fair was she;
a joy and comfort to sweet Mary God hath sent his Son to be.
Yet this baby, laid in manger, wept as if he knew the danger.
Sleep, O sleep, my little one sleep, angels silent watch o'er you keep.
St Joseph watch'd the Babe in wonder, all bewildered as he stood;
for now to dwelling place so humble had there come God's greatest good.
Still amid the oxen's lowing were the Infant's tears soft flowing.
Sleep, O sleep, my little one sleep, angels silent watch o'er you keep.
All through the night St. Joseph wander'd seeking fuel for the shed;
and with their breath the patient oxen warm'd the air round Jesus' bed;
and in Mary's tender keeping, Jesus ceased his silent weeping.
Sleep, O sleep, my little one sleep, angels silent watch o'er you keep.

Dutch traditional, *tr.* Irene Gass

arr. G. H. Woodward

Hymn 305:

Cranham

1. *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.*
2. *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.*
3. *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.*
4. *Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But only his mother, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.*
5. *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: Amelia Wallace

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Hymn 316:

Gartan

1. *Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.*
2. *Worship we the Godhead, Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
worship we our Jesus: but wherewith for sacred sign?*
3. *Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.*

Christina Georgina Rossetti

Lesson 6: Matthew 2: 1 – 12

Reader: Isobel Hutchings

Noo, whan Jesus was born i' Bethlehem-Judah, i' the days o' King Herod, lo ! Wyss Men cam frae the East tae Jerusalem. And quo' they, "Whaur is he bidin that is ca'd King o' the Jews ? for i' the East we saw his starn, and are come forrit to worship him." But the King, hearin, was sair pitten-aboot ; and a' Jerusalem wi' him. And, gatherin a' the heigh-priests and writers o' the nation, he wad ken o' them "whaur the Messiah soud be born ?" And quo' they, "In Bethlehem-Judah ; for sae it is pitten doon by the prophet ;

'And thou, Bethlehem , land o' Judah, nane the least amang Judah's princes !
for oot o' thee sal come a Ruler, wha sal tend my folk o' Isra'!' "

Than, Herod, convenin the Wyss Men privately, faund oot mair strickly o' the comin o' the starn ; and bad them gang to Bethlehem ; and quo' he, "Gang, and seek ye oot the wee bairn ; and whan ye ken, fesh me word again, that I as weel may come and worship." Eftir hearing the King, they gaed awa' ; and lo ! the starn whilk they saw i' the East gaed on afore them, till it stood whaur the wee bairn was. And whan they saw the starn, they were blythe wi' unco blythness. And comin intil the hoose, they saw the wee bairn, and his mither Mary ; and loutin doon, worshipp't him. And openin' oot their gear, they offer't till him gifts - gowd, and frankincense, and myrrh. And bein warned in a dream no to gang back till Herod, they airtit their way to their ain kintra anither gate.

(from the Rev William Smith's 'Gospels in Braid Scots')

Choir:

The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown;
of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown.

O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom as white as any flower;
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Saviour.

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood;
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickles as sharp as any thorn;
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark as bitt'r as any gall;
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.

English traditional

arr. H. Walford Davies

Hymn 304:

Forest Green

1. *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*
2. *O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King and peace to men 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 7: John 1: 1 – 14

Reader: Catherine Alexander

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 Richard Frazer

Choir:

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.

Then why should men 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?

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace to men, now and for evermore. Amen.'

English traditional

arr. D. Willcocks

Hymn 306:

Adeste Fideles

(during which, **The Offering**)

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. tr. Frederick Oakeley

Pastoral Prayer

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 special night is radiant with the brilliance of your message of love and good will to all. As we go from this place, may we take that light with us to guide us in the days 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

Benediction

Hymn 301:

Mendelssohn

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 host 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 Son 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

Organ: Fantasia on "In dulci jubilo", BWV 729

J. S. Bach

NOTES

Forthcoming Services:

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

After the service, all are warmly invited to join the congregation at the west end of the Kirk (under the organ) for mulled wine or apple juice, with home-made mince pies.

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.