

ORDER OF SERVICE - 25 DECEMBER 2022

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 25 December 2022 – Christmas Day

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: Les Mages, from La Nativite du Seigneur

Olivier Messiaen

Organ Introit: Ricercar pro Festis Natalitatis

J. C. F. Fischer

Welcome and Call to Worship: Gillian Couper

Hymn 322:

In Dulci Jubilo

1. *Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now give heed to what we say, Jesus Christ is born today:
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*
2. *Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now you hear of endless bliss, Jesus Christ was born for this:
he has opened heaven's door, and all are blessed for evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*
3. *Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave, Jesus Christ was born to save,
calls you one, and calls you all, to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

John Mason Neale

Call to Prayer

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon: Gillian Couper

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison. (Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.)

Collect for the Day:

God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Anthem:

Ding dong, merrily on high! In heav'n the bells are ringing;
ding dong, verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, let steeple bells be swungen,

And io, io, io, by priest and people sungen.

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis! Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Pray ye dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;

may ye beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers.

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis! Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

George R. Woodward

arr. Charles Wood

The Word of God

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 9: 2 – 7

Reader: Dr Alison Elliot

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hymn 27 (Psalm 34):

Taladh Chriosta

1. *I will always bless the Lord, praise his name and love his word.
Humble folk will fill with joy, as in God I glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*
2. *When I prayed, God answered me, from my fears he set me free:
none who trust God's faithful love shall be disappointed.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*
3. *Taste and see that God is good, know your yearnings understood,
find your true security, be God's holy people.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*
4. *Even lions suffer need, hunger when they long to feed;
yet for those who wait on God, good will not be lacking.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

John L. Bell

Gospel: Luke 2: 1 – 14

Reader: Jo Elliot

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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

Hymn 325:

Stuttgart

1. *Bethlehem, a noble city, has been blessed beyond compare,
for the gracious God of heaven once became incarnate there.*
2. *Fairer than the sun at morning was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing, seen in human form on earth.*
3. *From the east came men of wisdom bringing treasures prized of old,
tributes to a greater wisdom, gifts of incense, myrrh, and gold.*
4. *Sacred gifts of mystic meaning: incense shows that God has come,
gold proclaims him king of nations, myrrh foretells his saving tomb.*
5. *Holy Jesus, in your brightness to the Gentile world displayed,
with the Father and the Spirit endless praise to you be paid.*

Prudentius, tr. Edward Caswall

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith:

We believe in God, the source of all life, wholeness, and love.

We believe that God is revealed in the life of Jesus Christ in grace, mercy and justice.

*We believe that in his death, Jesus reveals God's determined presence in the world
even in the face of hatred, violence, and pain.*

*We believe that in his resurrection, Jesus reveals God calling us
to abundant life both now and forever.*

We believe that God lives among us, within us, and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that God moves us to be together in communities of faith, hope, and love.

*We believe these things not out of certainty but out of faith; as people who trust
in the reality of God revealed in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.*

Amen

Invitation to Holy Communion

Hymn 319:

Corde Natus

(during which, **The Offering**)

1. *Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.*
2. *By his word was all created; he commanded; it was done;
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one;
all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun, evermore and evermore.*
3. *O that birth for ever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Spirit's power conceiving, bore the Saviour of our race,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.*
4. *This is he whom seers and sages sang of old with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore.*
5. *All the heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions bow before him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.*
6. *Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore.*

Prudentius, tr. J.M. Neale and H.W. Baker

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessèd is he, O blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

The Distribution

Music for Reflection: Valse Op.69, No.2

Frederic Chopin
(Victoria Irvine, piano)

Prayers of Thanksgiving, and Concern

Anthem:

The blessed son of God only In a crib full poor did lie; with our poor flesh
and our poor blood was clothed that everlasting good. Kyrie eleison.

The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear, was a guest and a stranger here;
us for to bring from misery, that we might live eternally. Kyrie eleison.

All this did he for us freely, for to declare his great mercy; all Christendom
be merry therefore, and give him thanks for evermore. Kyrie eleison.

Miles Coverdale

R. Vaughan Williams

Benediction

Hymn 306:

Adeste Fideles

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.*
4. *Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Latin, 18th c. tr. Frederick Oakeley

Organ: Te Deum

Jean Langlais

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Sunday 1 January **10.30 am:** Morning Worship

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

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.