

ORDER OF SERVICE - 19 MARCH 2023

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 19 March 2023 – Fourth Sunday in 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: Chorale Prelude on "St. Cross", Set 2 No.6

Hubert Parry

Welcome and Call to Worship: Rev Ruth Halley

Leader: As a mother cradles her child to her breast;

All: *so God enfolds us with nurturing love.*

Leader: As a father proudly carries his child on his shoulders;

All: *so God bears us forward into the paths of life.*

Leader: As friends embrace each other warmly after a long absence;

All: *so God welcomes our presence.*

Leader: Therefore, in a spirit of joy, and with trust in our hearts,

All: *let us worship God.*

Hymn 489:

Down Ampney

1. *Come down, O Love Divine, seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.*
2. *O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.*
3. *Let holy charity my outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.*
4. *And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
we cannot guess its grace, till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.*

Bianco da Siena, *tr.* Richard Littledale

Call to Prayer and Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon: Rev Ruth Halley

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

Collect for the Day: *Loving God, even when we rebel and prefer to walk in our own paths, rather than in the way of your gracious truth, you never abandon us. Soften our hearts with the warm radiance of your love, that we may feel your Son alive and journeying beside us, until we join the path of grace and truth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen*

Hymn 386:

Pulling Bracken

*Lifted high on your cross, drawing all folk, drawing all folk;
lifted high on your cross, drawing all folk to you.*

1. *Down you come to live among us, part of your creation,
knowing poverty and sorrow, sharing each temptation.*
2. *On the gallows there they nail you, God despised, rejected;
deep within your earth they hide you till you're resurrected.*
2. *Light and love pour down upon us, healing, recreating;
you relive your life within us, all life consecrating.*

Ian Cowie

The Word of God

1 Samuel 16: 1 - 13

Reader: Colin Graham

Samuel anoints David

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Hymn 17 (Psalm 23):

1. *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.
His goodness shall follow me always to the end of my days.*
2. *He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.*
3. *You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.*
4. *Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.*
5. *To the Father and Son give glory, give glory to the Spirit.
To God who is, who was, and who will be for ever and ever.
His goodness shall follow me always to the end of my days.*

Joseph Gelineau

John 9: 1 - 41

A man born blind receives sight

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.'

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.'

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

Anthem:

Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds. Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Psalm 51: 9 - 11

Thomas Attwood

Sermon

Rev Richard Frazer

Affirmation of Faith:

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Leader: There are parched places and dry throats.

All: *We believe that there is also water that springs from hard places
and living water that quenches every thirst.*

Leader: There are wild places and so much that is unknown.

All: *We believe that there is also reason to burst into song and make a joyful noise
because we have been to the depths but also know the heights that God can reach.*

Leader: There are hardened hearts and impossible situations.

All: *We believe that there is healing and reconciliation for everyone.
God promises peace and invites us to share this good news. Amen.*

The Offering

Pange Lingua

*Praise and honour to the Father, praise and honour to the Son,
praise and honour to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One,
One in might, and One in glory, while eternal ages run.*

Pastoral Prayer: Rev Ruth Halley

*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 392:

Rockingham

1. *When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.*
2. *Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.*
3. *See! from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?*
4. *Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Isaac Watts

Benediction

Amen

Organ: Fantasia in C minor, BWV 562

J. S. Bach

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Thursday 23 March	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 26 March	10.30 am: Holy Communion 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Sunday 2 April	9.15 am: Holy Communion 10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Sunday 9 April	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 with 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.

Greyfriars Lunchtime Concerts

The popular Greyfriars lunchtime concerts continue at 12 noon this Thursday, 23 March, with a recital of wind music by the Zephyrus Quintet. Admission is free.

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.

Greyfriars 400th Anniversary Concert – World Premiere

The concert in the Kirk at 7.30 pm **this evening** by the Edinburgh Royal Choral Union will include the long-awaited world premiere of "Water Psalms", which was commissioned for the Kirk's 400th anniversary from the composer Thomas LaVoy. There will be a pre-concert talk with the composer at 6.15 pm.

(over)

Coffee Mornings at the Charteris Centre

The next Coffee Morning at the Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 140 the Pleasance, will be on Thursday week, 30 March, in the St Ninian's Hall from 10.30 am until 12 noon, and fortnightly thereafter. Do come along to enjoy the warm and welcoming atmosphere with coffee and cake, or tea and scones, or whatever takes your fancy.

"Soul Space" at the Charteris Centre

This new monthly event gives people an opportunity to explore faith, current issues, and the world around us, led by a series of guest speakers, along with reflection, conversation, and refreshments. It is organised by Greyfriars Kirk in association with the Edinburgh University Chaplaincy and other partners, and takes place on the first Tuesday of every month from 5.00 to 7.00 pm in the St Ninian's Hall at the Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 140 the Pleasance.

The next topic on Tuesday fortnight, 4 April, will be "The Importance of Interfaith Dialogue", with the Rev. Richard Frazer and a guest speaker from the Edinburgh Interfaith Association,

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.