

ORDER OF SERVICE - 16 APRIL 2023

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Rev Ruth Halley
Gillian Couper

Dove symbolism

Jen Norton's painting on our front cover has a large dove labelled "alleluia" stretching across the top. The dove appears to be bringing good news to the land. The dove has significance in Hebrew stories. In the story of Noah's ark, the dove brought an olive branch to Noah, telling him that the flood waters had receded and that new life had returned to the land – their ordeal was over. When Jesus was baptised, the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove (Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22, John 1:32). In our contemporary world, the dove has become a symbol of peace since 1949, when the World Peace Congress chose a dove image by Pablo Picasso as its emblem; <https://www.pablopicasso.org/dove-of-peace.jsp>.

Q: What are your hopes for peace in our world?

Q: What difference would peace make at this time?

Q: How do we achieve peace?

These are big questions but worth contemplating as we look at Alleluia as an image for Easter.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 16 April 2023 – Low Sunday

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: Variations on the Easter melody 'O Filii et Filiae'

Jean-François Dandrieu

Welcome and Call to Worship: Rev Ruth Halley

Leader: When doors were shut, and the world was kept out,

All: *resurrection found the disciples.*

Leader: When the church gathers, and the world waits outside,

All: *resurrection finds us.*

Leader: When fear grew, and new questions were found,

All: *resurrection found the disciples.*

Leader: When faith leads us to new questions about life,

All: *resurrection finds us.*

Leader: When suffering remained, and the city was hostile,

All: *resurrection found the disciples.*

Leader: When Christ gathers with his followers in living worship,

All: *resurrection finds us.*

Leader: Come, let us worship God!

Hymn 52 (Psalm 84):

Harington

1. *How lovely is thy dwelling-place, O Lord of hosts, to me!
The tabernacles of thy grace, how pleasant, Lord, they be!*
2. *My thirsty soul longs vehemently, yea faints, thy courts to see:
my very heart and flesh cry out, O living God, for thee.*
3. *Behold, the sparrow findeth out an house wherein to rest;
the swallow also for herself hath found her place to nest;*
4. *Ev'n thine own altars, where she safe her young ones forth may bring,
O thou almighty Lord of hosts, who art my God and King.*
5. *Blest are they in thy house who dwell, they ever give thee praise.
And blest are they whose strength thou art, in whose heart are thy ways.*

Scottish Psalter

Call to Prayer

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

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

Presbytery Citation

Hymn 14 (Psalm 23):

Crimond

1. *The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie in pastures green: he leadeth me the quiet waters by.*
2. *My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, ev'n for his own name's sake.*
3. *Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill: for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.*
4. *My table thou hast furnishèd in presence of my foes; my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.*
5. *Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me: and in God's house for evermore my dwelling-place shall be.*

Scottish Psalter

The Word of God

Acts 5: 27 - 32

Reader: Rus Loten

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

John 20: 19 - 31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith:

*We believe in an Easter God who creates and re-creates, gives abundant life
and is with us through all that life may bring.*

*We believe in the Christ of the Resurrection who appeared to his disciples
and became present in a new way to those who follow him.*

*We believe in the Spirit foretold by Jesus, who came with power and wonders,
gives strength and consolation, and empowers us..*

Amen

The Offering

Tallis's Canon

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God, the Trinity of love, before, beneath, around, above.*

Pastoral Prayer: Hilary Clydesdale

Hymn 125:

Ombersley

1. *Lord of all being, throned afar, thy glory flames from sun and star;
centre and soul of every sphere, yet to each loving heart how near!*
2. *Sun of our life, thy quickening ray sheds on our path the glow of day;
star of our hope, thy softened light cheers the long watches of the night.*
3. *Our midnight is thy smile withdrawn, our noontide is thy gracious dawn,
our rainbow arch thy mercy's sign; all, save the clouds of sin, are thine.*
4. *Lord of all life, below, above, whose light is truth, whose warmth is love,
before thy ever-blazing throne we ask no lustre of our own.*
5. *Grant us thy truth to make us free, and kindling hearts that burn for thee,
till all thy living altars claim one holy light, one heavenly flame.*

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Benediction

Amen

Organ: Chorus and March from 'Judas Maccabeus'

G.F. Handel

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Today	12.30 pm: Gaelic Service 7.00 pm: Refugio – Holy Communion with silence and symbol.
Thursday 20 April	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 23 April	10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Sunday 30 April	9.15 am: Holy Communion 10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service

Today, the Sunday after Easter, is a customary holiday for our Kirk choir.

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.

Study Service

This evening's service will be a Bible Study on Philippians 3 and Hebrews 6.

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.

Art Exhibition

We welcome back the Holyrood Art Club for their annual exhibition in the Kirk, which will be open this afternoon (after the Gaelic service) and all next week until Saturday 22 April.

Greyfriars Lunchtime Concerts

The popular Greyfriars lunchtime concerts continue at 12 noon on Thursday week, 27 April, with a recital by students from Edinburgh University. Admission is free.

Greyfriars Kirkyard book launch

A new book about the notable burials in our Kirkyard, and the national, social, or family history associated with them, will be launched on Friday 28 April with an event in the Kirk starting at 4.00 pm. Tickets for this occasion should be obtained on Eventbrite.

(over)

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.

Coffee Mornings at the Charteris Centre

The next Coffee Morning at the Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 140 the Pleasance, will be this Thursday, 20 April, in the St Ninian's Hall from 10.30 am until 12 noon. Do come along to enjoy the warm and welcoming atmosphere with coffee and cake, or tea and scones, or whatever takes your fancy.

The following coffee morning at **11.30 am** on Thursday 4 May will be a **Coronation Lunch**, served at 12 noon. To attend on this occasion, you must register beforehand, at:

<https://www.citizenticket.com/events/greyfriars-charteris-centre/charteris-community-coronation-lunch/>

After a well-earned break, the coffee mornings will resume from 10.30 am to 12 noon on Thursdays 1 June, 15 June and 29 June.

"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.

On Tuesday fortnight, 2 May, the guest speaker will be Ross Greer, MSP, on the topic "Creation Theology and Climate, and the Church as a Social Movement for Change."

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.