

ORDER OF SERVICE - 27 AUGUST 2023

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Gillian Couper
Sue MacGregor



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 27 August 2023 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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: Psalm Prelude, Set 1 No.1

Herbert Howells

Welcome and Call to Worship: Sue MacGregor

Leader: All you who are thirsty, this is the place for water.
All you who are hungry, this is the place to be fed.
Here, without price and without prejudice, all may enjoy the bread of heaven.

All: *God speaks, and all who listen will have life.*

Leader: Come, let us worship God!

Hymn 449:

Darwall's 148th

1. *Rejoice! The Lord is King, your Lord and King adore.
Mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore:
Lift up your hearts, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say: Rejoice!*
2. *Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above:*
3. *His kingdom cannot fail; he rules both earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given:*
4. *He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command, and fall before his feet:*
5. *Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ, the Judge, shall come,
and take his servants up to their eternal home:
We then shall hear the archangel's voice; the trump of God shall sound: Rejoice!*

Charles Wesley

Call to Prayer and Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

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

Collect for the Day: *Almighty God, you have taught us that without love all our doings are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.* Amen

Hymn 161:

St Anne

1. *O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!*
2. *Under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defence is sure.*
5. *Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.*
6. *O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.*

Isaac Watts

The Word of God

Genesis 27: 1 - 14

Reader: Bert Hutchings

When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder son Esau and said to him, 'My son'; and he answered, 'Here I am.' He said, 'See, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. Then prepare for me savoury food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die.'

Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, Rebekah said to her son Jacob, 'I heard your father say to your brother Esau, "Bring me game, and prepare for me savoury food to eat, that I may bless you before the Lord before I die." Now therefore, my son, obey my word as I command you. Go to the flock, and get me two choice kids, so that I may prepare from them savoury food for your father, such as he likes; and you shall take it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.' But Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, 'Look, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a man of smooth skin. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him, and bring a curse on myself and not a blessing.' His mother said to him, 'Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my word, and go, get them for me.' So he went and got them and brought them to his mother; and his mother prepared savoury food, such as his father loved.

Psalms 124

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side – let Israel now say – if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters. Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Hymn 204:

*I am the Church! You are the Church! We are the Church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the Church together.*

1. *The Church is not a building, the Church is not a steeple.
The Church is not a resting place, the Church is a people!*
2. *We're many kinds of people with many kinds of faces:
all colours and all ages, too, from all times and places.*
3. *And when the people gather there's singing and there's praying,
there's laughing and there's crying, sometimes, all of it saying:*

*I am the Church! You are the Church! We are the Church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the Church together.*

Richard Avery and Donald Marsh

Matthew 16: 13 - 20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Anthem:

*Ave verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine:
cujus latus perforatum unda fluxit et sanguine: esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.*

*(Jesus, truly human Son of Mary, who suffered on the Cross for all our sakes, and from whose
wounded side flowed blood and water, sustain us in this life as in the next.)*

attr. Innocent VI

W.A. Mozart

Sermon

Affirmation:

*We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the one God, maker and sustainer of earth, sea and sky. Born of
Mary, Jesus healed the sick, served the poor, and proclaimed heaven on earth. He died,
but transformed even death. He rose and is still among us in a new way. He blessed
his disciples with his Holy Spirit and sent them out, east and west, north and south.*

*We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as brothers and sisters, and to his mission
in the world, by the grace of the Holy Spirit.* *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.*

Agape Meal

"Agape" is the New Testament Greek word for "self-giving love".

In the Christian tradition, an "Agape" is also the name for informal meals and times of togetherness and mutual sharing which remind us of all those meals Jesus shared with his friends and the unity that his Spirit continues to give us.

Leader: How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony! (Ps 133). This is the place and this is the time: here and now, God waits to break into our experience.

Reader 1: To change our minds.

Reader 2: To change our hearts.

Reader 3: To change our ways.

All: *To make us see the world and the whole of life in a new light.*

To fill us with hope, joy and certainty for the future.

Here and now – let us praise God.

Common confession:

Leader: Let us examine ourselves as we seek to live in Christian community, as a sign and symbol of God's peace for the world:

All: *We confess our failings in Community: our lack of understanding,*

our lack of forgiveness, our lack of openness, our lack of sensitivity.

We confess the times when we are too eager to be better than others,

when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we are too lazy

to listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love.

Leader: One and all,

All: *we forgive. We trust that we are forgiven.*

Setting the table, and an invitation to form a circle around it.

Leader: On the table in the midst of this community with whom Christ is present we set symbols to remind us of his promises to us:

Reader 1: A candle, to remind us of Jesus who said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life".

Reader 2: Bread, symbol of Jesus who said, "I am the bread of life.

The bread that I shall give is myself for the life of the world".

Reader 3: Wine to remind us of the Cross of Jesus who said, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another".

All: *Lord, we welcome your presence with us. May the food and companionship we share nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. And may our spirits be refreshed as we live in the light of your presence with us now, and at all times and places.*

Amen.

The meal is served to the helpers then to the congregation.

Leader: Let us share a sign of peace with those near us.

Music for Reflection: Prelude 4 'Homecoming'

Christopher Norton
(Victoria Irvine, piano)

Pastoral Prayers of Thanks and Intercession: Margaret Wallace

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

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: *We will rejoice and be glad in it.*

Leader: Let us go in peace and serve the Lord.

All: *We will seek peace and pursue it.*

Leader: Glory be to God who made us and to Christ who saved us
and to the Holy Spirit who keeps us in faith

All: *As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever.*

(sung) Amen

Organ: Placare Christe Servulis

Marcel Dupré

NOTES

Forthcoming Services:

Today	12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Thursday 31 August	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 3 September	9.15 am: Holy Communion 10.30 am: Morning Worship, with the Lord Provost and this year's leading participants in the Riding of the Marches. 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Sunday 10 September	11.00 am: Morning Worship at Augustine United Church with our local ecumenical partners. 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service

Refreshments

You are warmly invited to join us after the service for biscuits and tea or coffee, served at the back of the church beneath the organ.

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.

News from the Ministerial Team

Sadly, our organist Henry Wallace is retiring at the beginning of October, leaving not just one but two big pairs of shoes to fill as we also lose Amelia from the choir. After 22 years they will leave a huge gap, but hopefully their musical legacy will be one that a successor will be keen to fill, and advertising for the organist/choirmaster post is under way.

Concerts & Events at Greyfriars

Check out <https://greyfriarskirk.com/events/> for information on all our upcoming events and concerts. You will see that the Kirk has had a very busy August with nearly twenty concerts during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, ending with a lunchtime concert at 12 noon this Thursday, 31 August, with a choral recital by the *a capella* trio Simmerdim.

Concerts & Events elsewhere

Augustine United Church – <https://www.augustine.org.uk/about-us/diary/>
St Columba's by the Castle – <https://www.stcolumbasbythecastle.org.uk/>
St Cuthbert's – <https://stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk/>
Grassmarket Community Project – <https://grassmarket.org/whats-on/>
Greyfriars Charteris Centre – <https://www.charteriscentre.com/>

Our Grassmarket Community Project are entering a team in this year's **Kiltwalk**, which will take place on Sunday 17 September; please pick up a leaflet from the table near the door, and consider making a donation or agreeing a sponsorship, to help them to raise funds for their valuable outreach to the marginalised and disadvantaged in Edinburgh.

(over)

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.

Volunteering opportunities

Sunday morning catering: the catering team would love some new volunteers to help with the cuppas after the morning service! As we are now providing biscuits (sweet and savoury), with home baking optional, this only requires minimal time to serve and clear — men would be welcome! Please speak to Isobel Hutchings or Margaret Wallace, or email officeassistant@greyfriarskirk.com.

Welcoming weekday visitors to the Kirk: it would be great to see members of our congregation engaging with the public and spreading our message. Welcomers are our friendly faces who greet visitors from all over the world, answering their questions and making their visit memorable. The usual time commitment is one day a week for 4 hours between 11 am and 4 pm. To know more, please contact Steve or Ellen in the office: 0131 225 1900, or email Ellen at communications@greyfriarskirk.com, or see the full description on <https://volunteergreyfriars.com>.

St Cuthbert's & Greyfriars Working Group – Working Toward Union

Another good meeting was held by the working group on 10 August and lots of good ideas were raised, including opportunities for worship and social events together. More to follow on that soon, once Christine Stevenson, an elder at St Cuthbert's, and Gillian Couper, who are joint chairs of the group, put their heads together and bring follow up news and create the website pages on both Greyfriars Kirk and St Cuthbert's websites, where documents, news items and updates will be shared and remain available as things progress. So, as they say, “watch this space” and more coming soon . . . As ever though, if you'd like to raise questions or chat to someone about the proposed union, please get in touch with Gillian (parishassociate@greyfriarskirk.com) or Jo Elliot (sessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com) by email; or leave a message with the Kirk office by phone (0131 225 1900) and Jo or Gillian will get in touch. They will be very pleased to hear from you.

Pastoral Care and Staying in Touch

It is great to share news, keep in touch and find support whenever this is welcome or required. 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 either by email: parishassociate@greyfriarskirk.com or phone: 07808 472 464.

If you would like to speak to the minister, Richard will be very pleased to hear from you too, either by email: minister@greyfriarskirk.com or phone: 07715 069 041.