

ORDER OF SERVICE - 19 NOVEMBER 2023

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Sue MacGregor
Gillian Couper



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 19 November 2023 – Twenty-fifth 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: Chorale prelude on 'Rhosymedre'

R. Vaughan Williams

Welcome and Call to Worship: Gillian Couper

Hymn 160:

1. *Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him! Praise the everlasting King.*
2. *Praise him for his grace and favour to our fathers in distress;
praise him, still the same for ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless;
Praise him! Praise him! glorious in his faithfulness.*
3. *Father-like he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him! Praise him! widely as his mercy flows.*
4. *Frail as summer's flower we flourish; blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Praise him! Praise him! Praise the high eternal One.*
5. *Angels, help us to adore him; ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him! Praise with us the God of grace.*

Henry Francis Lyte

Call to Prayer

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

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

Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world. Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and bring us to eternal light and joy; through the power of him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

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

The Word of God**1 Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11**

Reader: Charlotte Golledge

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Matthew 25: 14 - 30

Jesus said, 'It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." '

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

Anthem: A Gaelic Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you; deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you; deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you; moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you; deep peace of Christ to you.

John Rutter

Sermon

Rev Richard Frazer

Affirmation of Faith:

*We believe in God, Creator of all things, heavenly father and mother,
soul of infinite love, wisdom, and power,
ruler of all that is and all that is to come, who is mystery, yet revealed.*

*We follow Christ, God's chosen one, who loved and served humbly,
who healed the broken and included the outcast,
who chose to suffer rather than harm for the sake of the healing of all Creation, who
gave his life for our redemption, and who was raised by God to new life.
In his teaching, in his death and resurrection, and in his presence with us
in all circumstances, he reveals God to us. He calls us to serve him
for the sake of proclaiming God's grace. We trust that he accompanies us
and will help, guide, heal, and defend us through all difficulty and suffering.*

*We believe the Holy Spirit sustains us, and guides us and empowers us as servants
of God's grace. We live as the body of Christ, in the power of forgiveness,
the reality of resurrection, and the light of eternal life.*

Amen

The Offering

Triumph

*Now to him who loved us, gave us every pledge that love could give,
freely shed his blood to save us, gave his life that we might live,
be the kingdom, power and glory, and thanksgiving evermore.*

Pastoral Prayer: 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 639:

St Patrick, and
(v.5) Clonmacnoise

1. *I bind unto myself today the strong Name of the Trinity;
by invocation of the same, the Three in one, and One in Three.*
2. *I bind this day to me for ever, by power of faith, Christ's Incarnation;
his baptism in the Jordan river; his death on cross for my salvation;
his bursting from the spiced tomb; his riding up the heavenly way;
his coming at the day of doom: I bind unto myself today.*
3. *I bind unto myself today the virtues of the starlit heaven,
the glorious sun's life-giving ray, the whiteness of the moon at even,
the flashing of the lightning free, the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
the stable earth, the deep salt sea around the old eternal rocks.*
4. *I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead,
his eye to watch, his might to stay, his ear to hearken to my need,
the wisdom of my God to teach, his hand to guide, his shield to ward,
the word of God to give me speech, his heavenly host to be my guard.*
5. *Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*
6. *I bind unto myself the name, the strong Name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same, the Three in one, and One in Three,
of whom all nature hath creation, Eternal Father, Spirit, Word.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation: salvation is of Christ the Lord. Amen.*

St Patrick; version by
Cecil Frances Alexander

Benediction

Amen

Organ: Toccata in F, BuxWV157

Dietrich Buxtehude

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Today	12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Thursday 23 November	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 26 November	10.30 am: Holy Communion
Sunday 3 December	9.15 am: Holy Communion
	10.30 am: Morning Worship with Holy Baptism
	12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
	7.00 pm: Refugio – Holy Communion with silence and symbol.

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. If you are new to the Kirk, visiting after some time away, or do not know anyone yet, please feel welcome to introduce yourself to the welcomers on the door and ministry team before or after the service; and if you would like to join in the friendly conversations at the tables over coffee or tea, we look forward to getting know you.

Giving with Gift Aid or by card

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.

If you would prefer to make your offering by card, rather than cash, there is now a card reader at the kitchen hatch at the back of the church, which links to the Kirk's bank account. Thank you so much for your support, which we depend on to maintain the life of the Kirk.

Concerts and Events at Greyfriars

Check out <https://greyfriarskirk.com/events/> for information on all our upcoming events and concerts. The next lunchtime concert at 12 noon this Thursday, 23 November, will be given by senior pupils from Fettes College. Admission is free.

Concerts and 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/>, especially the traditional service of 9 Lessons and Carols from 7 pm to 8 pm on Sunday 17 December.

Grassmarket Community Project – <https://grassmarket.org/whats-on/>

Greyfriars Charteris Centre – <https://www.charteriscentre.com/>, especially the Coffee Mornings from 10.30 am to 12 noon on Thursday week, 30 November, and fortnightly thereafter.

Come and Sing!

At the Greyfriars Charteris Centre – Karl Jenkins, The Armed Man, on Saturday 25 November, from 10 am to 5 pm. Come and join in this free, day workshop open to all, led by the fabulous Neil Metcalfe, with accompaniment by Stuart Hope. Part of the "Find Your Voice" programme, open to everyone, no matter what your skill and experience with singing, you are very welcome to come along and join in. Sign up here:

<https://www.cizenticket.com/events/greyfriars-charteriscentre/come-and-sing/>.

A Future with Hope: Ministry in a Changing Scotland

This Thursday, 23 November, at New College from 4 pm to 6 pm, join the sociologist David McCrone and a panel of parish ministers to discuss his social analysis of a changing Scottish society over the last thirty years and their creative response in a range of local ministries. This New College event is an opportunity to map a future with hope for ministry in Scotland in the light of social change and innovative practice. With Will Storrar, Richard Frazer, Alison Jack and Gillian Couper. You can pick up a leaflet near the Kirk door, and can sign up here:

[A Future With Hope: Ministry in a Changing Scotland Tickets, Thu 23 Nov 2023 at 16:00 | Eventbrite](#)

(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.

Greyfriars Kirk and St Cuthbert's – Working toward Union

Two weeks ago, on Saturday 4 November, 40 representatives from the two Kirk Sessions of Greyfriars Kirk and St Cuthbert's met for a first joint event. This provided an opportunity to get to know each other, get to know each other's churches, how the congregations have developed and their present context, and start to think about the work that lies ahead as we progress toward union. It was an encouraging, convivial event led by Place for Hope. Many similarities were discovered, e.g. enjoyment of musical liturgy, an inclusive welcome, and reaching out to local communities, particularly those on the edge. Many concerns were shared too, including ensuring that the “best of both” churches contribute to the union, developing a sustainable financial approach for activities, and working through coming changes together with positivity.

Keep up to date on this topic at: <https://greyfriarskirk.com/greyfriars-st-cuthberts-union/>

The joint working group, with representatives of both congregations, will meet early in December, after consideration of all the output from this event, to formulate proposals for taking things forward. This will involve creating opportunities for wider congregations, both members of the churches and other regular attenders, representatives of the ecumenical community and other partnerships, and the valued staff teams, to get involved and have their say too. More news will be shared as plans develop. As ever, please do get in touch if you would like to have a chat about any of this. Whether you'd like to share your own concerns, make suggestions about things to consider, or just have a chat, either Gillian (parishassociate@greyfriarskirk.com) or Jo (sessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com) will be very pleased to speak to you, so drop them an email or call the Kirk office on 0131 225 1900.

Volunteering opportunity

Concert Stewarding: as Christmas approaches, the Kirk's musical programme becomes ever busier, with concerts by the SCO Chorus and the best local choirs and orchestras, appealing to all tastes in music. Each concert needs three volunteer Stewards. Besides offering a Greyfriars friendly face, their essential task is to sit by the exits in case of emergency. There is nothing arduous, as all the scene-shifting afterwards is now done by our loyal paid staff. It's a great opportunity to hear some wonderful performances at no cost, while supporting Greyfriars Outreach. Contact Steve Lister on 0131 225 1900 or outreach@greyfriarskirk.com

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.