

ORDER OF SERVICE - 26 NOVEMBER 2023

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Sue MacGregor
Gillian Couper



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 26 November 2023 – Christ the King

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 No. 1, Set 1

Herbert Howells

Introit:

Crux fidelis, inter omnes arbor una nobilis,
Nulla silva talem profert fronde, flore, germine,
Dulce lignum, dulces clavos, dulce pondus sustinet.

*(Faithful cross, above all other, one and only noble tree,
none in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit compares with thee:
Sweet the wood and sweet the iron, sweet the load that hangs on thee.)*

Venantius Fortunatus, tr. *John Mason Neale

Chris Hutchings

Welcome and Call to Worship

Hymn 543:

1. *Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.*
2. *Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.*
3. *Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.*
4. *Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.*
5. *Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.*

Bernadette Farrell

**Call to Prayer and
Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon**

Rev Fiona Bennett (Augustine United) and
Rev David Paton-Williams (St Columba's)

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

Collect for the Day: *All-embracing God, you hold all things in being; and, in Jesus, have declared your love for all. It is your will to restore all things in him, whose realm we work for in song and ceremony, in service and community. Pour out your Spirit on our divided world, that all humanity might learn to live in harmony with one another and the good earth. And, in the light of your gentle and loving grace, bring us more closely together as people of a common spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.* Amen

Hymn 485:

Repton

1. *Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind; in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise; in deeper reverence, praise.*
2. *In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word rise up, and follow thee.*
3. *O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity, interpreted by love!*
4. *With that deep hush subduing all our words and works that drown
the tender whisper of thy call,
as noiseless let thy blessing fall as fell thy manna down.*
5. *Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.*
6. *Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire, O still small voice of calm!*

John Greenleaf Whittier

The Word of God

Ephesians 1: 15 – 23

Reader: Jo Elliot

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Hymn 33 (from Psalms 42-43):

*As the deer longs for running streams,
so I long, so I long, so I long for you.*

1. *Athirst my soul for you, the God who is my life!
When shall I see, when shall I see, see the face of God?*
2. *Echoes meet as deep is calling unto deep,
over my head, all your mighty waters, sweeping over me.*
3. *Continually the foe delights in taunting me:
'Where is God, where is your God?' Where, O where are you?*
4. *Defend me, God, send forth your light and your truth.
They will lead me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling place.*
5. *Then shall I go unto the altar of my God.
Praising you, O my joy and gladness: I shall praise your name.*

Bob Hurd

Matthew 25: 31 – 46

Readers: Leslie Munro (in Scots),
then Roddy John MacLeod (in Gaelic)

Jesus said, 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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

Anthem:

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God.
When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night,
while they daily say unto me, "where, where is now thy God?"

Psalm 42: 1 - 3

Herbert Howells

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

Holy Manna

*For your generous providing which sustains us all our days,
for your Spirit here residing we proclaim our heartfelt praise.
Through the depths of joy and sorrow, though the road be smooth or rough,
fearless, we can face tomorrow, for your grace will be enough.*

Invitation to Holy Communion***Hymn 655:***

Holy Manna

2. *Hush our world's seductive noises tempting us to stand alone;
save us from the siren voices calling us to trust our own.
For those snared by earthly treasure, lured by false security,
Jesus, true and only measure, spring the trap to set folk free.*
3. *Round your table, through your giving, show us how to live and pray
till your kingdom's way of living is the bread we share each day:
bread for us and for our neighbour, bread for body, mind, and soul,
bread of heaven and human labour – broken bread that makes us whole.*

Leith Fisher

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: Prelude, Fugue and Variation, Opus 18

César Franck

Pastoral Prayer: Sue MacGregor and Gillian Couper

Hymn:

Thaxted

1. *Lord, your loving hand is seen in all that you have made so well;
O'er the hills the eagle soars with grace that words can never tell.
Deep within our soul we sense you like our pulse, so very near;
The hands that we hold in life shall chase away our fear.
Yet this world is full of scars and many painful tears are shed,
So we ask your Spirit now to show the paths that we should tread.*
2. *Lead us now to cherish what we have instead of wanting more.
Fire us with that love that Jesus had, who always blessed the poor.
Bend our wills to plough the soil and serve all life by Holy Law.
As we seek to explain the world, fill all our minds with awe.
And help us hear anew the prophet's wise and timely word,
Living justly, loving mercy and humbly seeking God.*
3. *Years of barren desert wandering can shake our trust in you.
In a world so parched and dry it's springs of hope that we pursue.
Yet our courage can desert us, as we cling to tired ways.
Trust that lean times can turn once more to hopeful pilgrim days,
And that long-blocked springs will open up to all that travel on,
And our tears of sorrow shed in loss will turn once more to song.*

Richard Frazer

Benediction

*May the God of peace go with us as we travel from this place;
May the love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace.*

Organ: Sortie in E flat major

Louis Lefébure-Wély

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Thursday 30 November	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 3 December, First Sunday in Advent	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.
Sunday 10 December	10.30 am: Morning Worship 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. 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, 30 November, will be given by the "Gallus Brass" brass ensemble. 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 this Thursday, 30 November, and fortnightly thereafter.

Study Service

The Study Service this evening will be a Bible Study on Revelation 1, and meets by Zoom from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm; for the Zoom link, email Bob Walker at bob@hebrides.u-net.com.

(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

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

The joint working group, with representatives of both congregations, first met on Saturday 4 November. After consideration of all the output from that first meeting, they will meet again early in December 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.

The Colours of God: Celebrating Creation

All will be welcome at Mayfield Salisbury Church (18 West Mayfield) next Sunday, 3 December, to the above lecture at 7.00 pm by the Very Rev. Prof. David Fergusson OBE FRSE FBA, and also to a reception afterwards. The event is free and no booking is required.

Prof. Fergusson writes: "Although it is a fundamental of Christian faith, the theme of creation has suffered neglect in creeds, in worship, and in textbooks. This has resulted in an ecological deficit. In this lecture, I aim to offer a more expansive account of creation for our time by considering ways in which it can enrich Christian thought and practice."

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.