

ORDER OF SERVICE - 10 DECEMBER 2023

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Sue MacGregor
Gillian Couper
Prof Bert Kerrigan KC



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 10 December 2023 – Second Sunday of Advent

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: A Fancy for a Double Organ

Orlando Gibbons

Introit:

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end.

Psalm 119: 33

Thomas Attwood

Call to Worship: Sue MacGregor

Hymn 472:

Stuttgart

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley

The Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Leader 1: On this day, with all the faithful of every time and place,
we bear witness to the light of Christ. With Isaiah and Jeremiah,
we await the promised salvation of the Lord, and look for the coming
of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

Leader 2: With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we cry:
"Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

(The Second Candle is Lit)

All: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.
Alleluia!

Call to Prayer

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon: Gillian Couper

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

Collect for the Day: *Almighty God, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah. Inspire the ministers and stewards of your truth to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* Amen

Hymn 334:

Winchester New

1. *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.*
2. *Then cleansed be every heart from sin; make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home where such a mighty Guest may come.*
3. *For you are our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your aid we waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.*
4. *Stretch out your hand, to heal our sore, and make us rise to fall no more;
once more upon your people shine, and fill the world with love divine.*
5. *All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.*

Charles Coffin, tr. John Chandler and others

The Word of God

Isaiah 40: 1 - 11

Reader: Rus Loten

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' and I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1: 1 - 8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

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

Anthem:

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

John 1: 19-23

Orlando Gibbons

Sermon

Sue MacGregor

Affirmation of Faith:

*I choose no other Lord than the maker of heaven and earth. This day I walk with Him
and He will walk with me.*

*I fasten close to me this day that same Jesus who came to us as flesh and blood and was
Himself baptized in the Jordan River. He died upon a cross to rescue me,
broke free from death, its conqueror. He left us, to return the more certainly.*

*All these truths and their power I fasten close to me this day. Resisting my own selfishness
and sin, refusing to live as a slave to riches, pleasure or reputation, rejecting Satan
and all his lies, I call on heaven to witness today that I have put on Christ.*

Amen

The Offering

Veni Emmanuel

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Pastoral Prayer: Alison Noble

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

Advent Blessing

*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: Prelude and Fugue in E minor

J.S. Bach

(Kirk notices overleaf)

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Today	12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Thursday 14 December	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 17 December	10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service 7.00 pm: 9 Lessons and Carols, at St Cuthbert's
Thursday 21 December	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 24 December	10.30 am: Morning Worship 5.00 pm: Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
Monday 25 December	10.30 am: Christmas Day Worship

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 regular lunchtime concerts on Thursdays will resume in the New Year.

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/>

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

Greyfriars Charteris Centre – <https://www.charteriscentre.com/>, especially the festive Coffee Morning from 10.30 am to 12 noon this Thursday, 14 December.

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.

Study Service

The topic of this evening's Study Service, meeting by Zoom from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm, will be **"How might the church best prepare for Christmas?"** Given the significance of Advent, how can the church even begin to do justice to God becoming man in Jesus, to all he did, not only in life, death, and resurrection, but now as King at God's side, continuing his ministry of teaching, love and service through his "other self", the Holy Spirit.

For the Zoom link, email Bob Walker at bob@hebrides.u-net.com.

Greyfriars & St Cuthbert's Update

At the working group meeting on 5 December, the focus was on output from the Kirk Session away day in November. The first part of that away day was a "getting to know" each other and it was reassuring to understand we have similarities in many aspects of what we do and how we do it. Moving forward, we will produce a monthly newsletter which will share things that have been achieved to date, what we are working on, and where we are on the journey toward union. The first edition will be shared in January, with the Order of Service, and also available online. Please do take one, or ask for a copy if you would like to take one for others who either can't come to a service or tend not to access things online.

Meantime, a suggestions box has been placed on the congregation table under the organ for your feedback, suggestions and concerns. Please do pop your name on the back of the slip so that we can respond directly back to you. And of course, Gillian and Jo warmly welcome anyone to get in touch if they would like to chat. Either leave a message with the Kirk at 0131 229 1900 for one of them to call you back, or email Jo at sessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com, or Gillian at parishassociate@greyfriarskirk.com, or join us for coffee after a service.

We look forward to Christmas and to our joint service of **9 Lessons and Carols** next Sunday, 17 December, at **7.00 pm** at St Cuthbert's. Come along to support the choir and enjoy the fellowship over mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. We will be planning more joint services and events in 2024, so do attend a service at St Cuthbert's sometime to get to know the folk there.

Christmas Shopping

The **Kirk Shop** will be open during the coffee hour today for a final chance to select stocking fillers from its variety of items which are on sale to our weekday visitors through the year. There will be a 20% reduction on everything before the shop closes for its annual stocktaking!

News from the Ministry Team, and Pastoral Care

Last week we welcomed Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC to join the Greyfriars ministry team, alongside Gillian Couper, Parish Associate and Sue MacGregor, Probationer Minister.

The Rev Karen Campbell, minister at Marchmont St Giles, has been appointed as Interim Moderator of the Greyfriars Kirk Session, and will chair the next Kirk Session this Wednesday, 13 December. We look forward to welcoming Karen too.

Sue, Gillian and Bert are pleased to hear from anyone in the congregation or community, if you would like to get in touch for any reason. Whether you'd like to hear about how things are going at Greyfriars, seek support or pastoral care, or simply share a cup of tea and a chat, you will be very welcome. If you know of anyone who you think might appreciate some contact or help from the ministry team too, please do let them know. You can reach them through the church office, 0131 225 1900, or by email: Gillian at parishassociate@greyfriarskirk.com; Sue at probationerminister@greyfriarskirk.com; Bert at kerrigan@kerrigankc.com.

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Nominations to central committees of the Church of Scotland

The following message is from the Rev. Dr Andrew Gardner, Convener of the Nomination Committee, tel. 07411-989344 :-

The Nominations Committee is extending its initial deadline as it is still short of nominations across all of the bodies which it considers so any help you can offer would be much appreciated.

A short video explaining the work of the Nomination Committee and encouraging you to get involved is available here: [Nomination Committee invites applications: We need You](#)

Details on the committees and of the nominations process, including links to the online 'Nomination Form' and 'Supporting a Nomination Form', can be found on the [Nomination Committee](#) webpages. Nominees must be members of the Church of Scotland. Serving nationally is a good way of getting to know the Church better, and of engaging with others from across the country and beyond. While it needs commitment and can be time-consuming and demanding, it is a real opportunity to extend one's Christian service and witness.

Might you or someone you know be willing to volunteer to serve in this way? We depend on you and others spreading the word and actively encouraging involvement.

The Nomination Committee receives nominations for the bodies listed below. Please note the number of anticipated vacancies for each body:

- Assembly Business Committee (2 member vacancies)
- Audit Committee (no anticipated vacancies arising in 2024)
- Chaplains to His Majesty's Forces Committee (no anticipated vacancies arising in 2024)
- Committee to Nominate the Moderator (members are now nominated by Presbyteries)
- Ecumenical Relations Committee (2 member vacancies)
- Ethical Oversight Committee (1 member vacancy)
- Faith Action Programme Leadership Team and Programme Groups (no anticipated vacancies arising in 2024)
- Iona Community Board (1 member vacancy)
- Legal Questions Committee (4 member vacancies)
- Life and Work Advisory Committee (3 member vacancies)
- Nomination Committee (4 member vacancies)
- Registration of Ministries (2 member vacancies)
- Safeguarding Committee (3 member vacancies)
- Social Care Council / Crossreach (3 member vacancies)
- Theological Forum (2 member vacancies)

We will treat the nomination forms confidentially and consider them carefully. We meet on 31 January and 1 February 2024, and those selected will then be contacted. This is to seek permission from the individual for their name to go to the General Assembly in May 2024 for approval. Appointments commence after the General Assembly.

Any queries on the nomination process should be emailed to nominations@churchofscotland.org.uk.