

ORDER OF SERVICE - 24 DECEMBER 2023

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Prof Bert Kerrigan KC
Gillian Couper
Sue MacGregor



GREYFRIARS

life in all its fullness / beatha na lànachd

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 24 December 2023 – Fourth 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.

'My soul tells out the greatness of the Lord, my spirit has rejoiced in God my saviour.'

Luke 1: 46b - 47

Organ: Chorale prelude on 'Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen'

Johannes Brahms

Introit:

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took. as clerkës finden written In their book.
Ne had the apple, the apple taken been, ne had never our Lady a-been heavené queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was! Therefore we moun singen *Deo gratias!*

anon. c. 1400

Boris Ord

Call to Worship: Sue MacGregor

Leader: Let us sing praise to the God of all creation.

All: *Let us sing praise to the Spirit who gives life to all.*

Leader: Let us sing praise to Jesus Christ, in whom the fullness of God was revealed,

All: *that all creation might be united with God through his love.*

Leader: We join our voices to the faithful of all ages, tongues and peoples.

All: *Alleluia! Christ is with us!*

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

Hymn 285:

Gabriel's Message

1. *The Angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail, ' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!*
2. *'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold; most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!*
3. *Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, 'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name': most highly favoured lady. Gloria!*
4. *Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, 'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!*

Basque carol, adapted Sabine Baring-Gould

The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Leader 1: With Mary, the mother of Jesus, we magnify the Lord, rejoicing in God our Saviour, for the Mighty One has done great things for us and holy is God's name.

Leader 2: With the writers of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we tell the good news of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem, who came to save us, and is coming again to rule in glory.

(The Fourth Candle is Lit)

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

Call to Prayer and Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

Collect for the Day:

Heavenly Father, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour. Fill us with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your will, and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Hymn 296:

Winchester Old

1. *While humble shepherds watched their flocks in Bethlehem's plains by night,
an angel sent from heaven appeared, and filled the plains with light.*
2. *'Fear not' he said, for sudden dread had seized their troubled mind;
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.*
3. *'To you in David's town, this day, is born, of David's line,
the Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:*
4. *'The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling-bands, and in a manger laid.'*
5. *Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God; and thus addressed their joyful song:*
6. *'All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
good will is shown from heaven above and never more shall cease.'*

Luke 2: 8 - 14

The Word of God

Psalm 89: 1 – 4 and 19 - 26

Reader: Stephanie Rae

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: "I will establish your descendants for ever, and build your throne for all generations."'

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: 'I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people. I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted. I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. He shall cry to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"'

Hymn 473:*Irish*

1. *'Thy kingdom come!' — on bended knee the passing ages pray;
and faithful souls have yearned to see on earth that kingdom's day.*
2. *But the slow watches of the night not less to God belong;
and for the everlasting right the silent stars are strong.*
3. *And lo, already on the hills the flags of dawn appear;
gird up your loins, ye prophet souls, proclaim the day is near:*
4. *The day in whose clear-shining light all wrong shall stand revealed,
when justice shall be throned with might, and every hurt be healed:*
5. *When knowledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth abroad,
the day of perfect righteousness, the promised day of God.*

Frederick Lucian Hosmer

Luke 1: 26 - 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

Anthem: Magnificat in B ♭

My soul doth magnify the Lord,; and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden: for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scatterèd the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Luke 1: 46 - 55

C. V. Stanford

Affirmation of Faith:

*We believe in God, who is love, whose love is manifest in all Creation,
in our lives, and in all people.*

*We follow Christ, who embodied God's love. In his life and ministry,
his death and resurrection, and his granting to us of his Spirit,
he filled us with that love as well.*

*We live by the Spirit, the presence of God's love in us. In that love we participate
in the Church, Body of Christ, in loving God by loving our neighbours
through our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.*

*Love is our faith, and it is a gift from God. We thank God,
and ask God's blessings, that we may love in the name of Christ
and the power of the Spirit, to God's glory.*

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 519:

Hyfrydol

1. *Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.*
2. *Come, almighty to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*
3. *Finish then thy new creation: pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

Charles Wesley

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: Chorale prelude on 'In dulci jubilo' BWV729

J.S. Bach

(Kirk notices overleaf)

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Today	5.00 pm: Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
Tomorrow	10.30 am: Christmas Day Worship
Sunday 31 December	10.30 am: Morning Worship
Sunday 7 January	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 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/>

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 & 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 put 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 will be planning a number of joint services and events in 2024, so do attend a service at St Cuthbert's sometime to get to know the folk there.

News from the Ministry Team, and Pastoral Care

Recently, we have 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.

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.