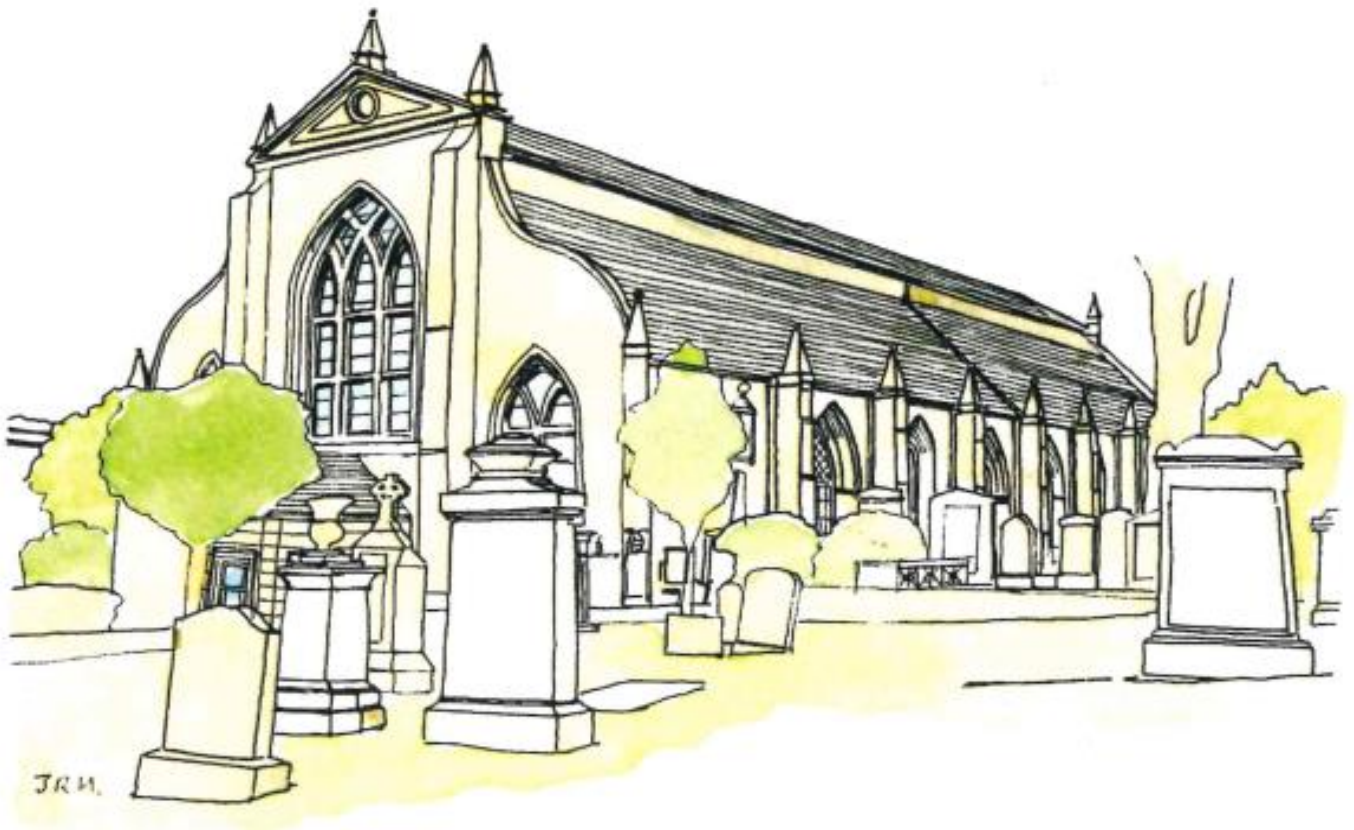


ORDER OF SERVICE - 3 DECEMBER 2023

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Sue MacGregor
Gillian Couper
Prof Bert Kerrigan KC



GREYFRIARS

life in all its fullness/beatha na lànachd

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 3 December 2023 - First 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: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV659

J. S. Bach

Introit:

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come
to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say:
Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Advent Responsory

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, adapted

Welcome and Call to Worship: Gillian Couper

Hymn 474:

Es ist ein Ros' Entsprungen

1. *Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity*
2. *He comes with succour speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong.,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.*
3. *He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.*

4. *For him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The mountain dews shall nourish a seed, in weakness sown,
whose fruit shall spread and flourish and shake like Lebanon.*
5. *O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever; that name to us is Love.*

James Montgomery

Call to Prayer

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

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

Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Welcome to Professor Bert Kerrigan KC as part of our Ministry Team

The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Hymn 304:

Forest Green

1. *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in your streets is shining the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.*
2. *O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King and peace to all on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.*
3. *How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*
4. *O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

Phillips Brooks

The Word of God

1 Corinthians 1: 1 - 9

Reader: Colin Graham

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13: 32 - 37

Jesus said: 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

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

The Baptism of Hanna Eilidh Usui Walker

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

Congregational Commitment:

Do you welcome Hanna, and do you renew your commitment, with God's help, to live before all children in a kindly, encouraging and Christian way, and to share with them the knowledge and love of Christ?

All: *We do. We will nurture one another in faith, uphold one another in prayer, and encourage one another in service.*

Anthem:

O thou the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most high, eternal light of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome world with rays divine; thy saints with holy lustre round thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee, transforming clay to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

H.R. Bramley

Charles Wood

Sermon: "Look forward in Faith"

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

Affirmation of Faith:

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

All: *I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: *I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: *I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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

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 237:

Cardross

1. *Look forward in faith, all time is in God's hand.
Walk humbly with him and trust his future plan.
God has wisely led his people by his power.
Look forward in hope, he gives us each new hour.*
2. *Look forward in faith, the world is in God's care.
His purpose of love he calls on us to share.
In our neighbour's need the Lord is present still.
He blesses the meek! The earth will know God's will.*
3. *Look forward in faith, God gives us life each day.
Go onward with Christ, his Spirit guides our way.
Now God lets us live within the sphere of grace.
Trust ever in him, he rules o'er earth and space!*

Andrew J. Scobie

Benediction

Organ: O Clavis David (no.4 of O Antiphon Sequence)

Cecilia McDowall

(Kirk notices overleaf)

NOTES

This morning, we welcome Bob Walker and his family with their daughter Hanna, who will be baptised by her uncle, the Rev. James B. Walker.

Forthcoming Services

Today	12.30 pm: Gaelic Service 7.00 pm: Refugio – Holy Communion with silence and symbol.
Thursday 7 December	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 10 December	10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Sunday 17 December	10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service 7.00 pm: 9 Lessons and Carols, at St Cuthbert's

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 on Thursday week, 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.

Greyfriars & St Cuthbert's Update - Readers required

Greyfriars has been asked to join the service of **9 Lessons and Carols** at **St Cuthbert's** on **Sunday 17 December** at **7.00 pm** – please note the updated time. Members of the choir are warmly welcomed to sing with the St Cuthbert's choir, led by organist Graham MacLagan. St Cuthbert's have also asked for one or two folk from Greyfriars to give some of the readings, so if you are free and willing to volunteer for that, please email Gillian. It will be great to see any of you at St Cuthbert's who can come along for this joint worship. It should be a special, warm occasion that will get the festive season off to a good start (mince pies after!), as we look forward to further Advent events at Greyfriars too.

The next working group meeting is this Tuesday, 5 December, to review materials arising from the Kirk Sessions' away day on 4 November, and to plan the tasks and activities required over the next few months. As ever, do speak to Jo (sessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com) or to Gillian (parishassociate@greyfriarskirk.com) if you'd like to discuss ideas, questions or concerns relating to the coming union. They are happy and keen to hear from you, and all thoughts will be welcome.

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

The Colours of God: Celebrating Creation

All will be welcome at Mayfield Salisbury Church, 18 West Mayfield, at 7.00 pm this evening to the above lecture by the Very Rev. Prof. David Fergusson OBE FRSE FBA, and to a reception following it. 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, worship and 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."

Christmas Shopping

Next Sunday, 10 December, the **Kirk Shop** will be open during the coffee hour for a final chance to select stocking fillers from its wide 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

This week we welcome Bert Kerrigan to join the Greyfriars ministry team, alongside Gillian Couper, Parish Associate and Sue MacGregor, Probationer Minister. Bert is a member of the Greyfriars congregation and a longstanding elder. He is the Senior Elder in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and the Senior Reader of the Church of Scotland, and has enjoyed preaching at Greyfriars on many previous occasions. He is also Chairman of the Thistle Trust, which is responsible for the running of the Robin Chapel in Craigmillar, where there is weekly choral evensong on Sundays at 4.00 pm.

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 on Wednesday week, 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.