

ORDER OF SERVICE - 31 DECEMBER 2023

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Prof Bert Kerrigan KC
Gillian Couper
Sue MacGregor



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 31 December 2023 – Sunday after Christmas

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 'Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her' Johann Pachelbel

Welcome and Call to Worship: Jo Elliot

Hymn 319: Corde Natus

1. *Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.*
2. *By his word was all created; he commanded; it was done;
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one;
all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun, evermore and evermore.*
3. *O that birth for ever blessèd, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Spirit's power conceiving, bore the Saviour of our race,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.*
6. *Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore.*

Prudentius, tr. J.M. Neale and H.W. Baker

Call to Prayer

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon Christine McGuinness
(Elder at St Cuthbert's)

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Hymn 327:*Was Lebet, was Schwebet*

1. *Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*
3. *Say, shall we yield him in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?*
4. *Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*
5. *Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

Reginald Heber

The Word of God**Matthew 3:13 – 4:4**Reader: Rosemary Scott
(Elder at Greyfriars)**The Baptism of Jesus**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Jesus the Great High Priest

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honour for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

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

Hymn 451:*Puer Nobis Nascitur*

1. *Where high the heavenly temple stands, the house of God not made with hands,
a great High Priest our nature wears; Jesus, the Son of God, appears.*
2. *He who for us our surety stood, and poured on earth his precious blood,
pursues in heaven his mighty plan, eternal God and Son of Man.*
3. *Though now ascended up on high, he bends on earth a brother's eye;
partaker of the human name, he knows the frailty of our frame.*
4. *Our fellow-sufferer yet retains a fellow-feeling of our pains;
and still remembers in the skies his tears, his agonies, and cries.*
5. *In every pang that rends the heart the Man of Sorrows has a part;
he sympathises with our grief, and to the sufferer sends relief.*
6. *With boldness, therefore, at the throne, let us make all our sorrows known;
and ask the aid of heavenly power to help us in the evil hour.*

Hebrews 4: 14 - 16

Sermon

Bob Walker

Music for Reflection: Prelude on 'Whence is that goodly fragrance?'Harrison Oxley
(Dr Caroline Cradock, organ)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

*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.*

*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

Tallis's Canon

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God, the Trinity of love, before, beneath, around, above.*

Pastoral Prayer

*Margaret Wallace
(Elder at Greyfriars)*

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 378:

Gerontius

1. *Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depths be praise, –
In all his words most wonderful, most sure in all his ways.*
2. *O loving wisdom of our God! when all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight and to the rescue came.*
3. *O wisest love! that flesh and blood, which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe, should strive and should prevail.*
4. *O generous love! that he who smote in Man, for man, the foe,
the double agony in Man for man should undergo.*
6. *Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depths be praise;
In all his works most wonderful, most sure in all his ways.*

John Henry Newman

Blessing

Jo Elliot

Organ: Noel

Louis Claude Daquin

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Thursday 4 January	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 7 January	9.15 am: Communion Service 10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Sunday 14 January	10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service

Our Bible readings this morning are from the English Standard Version Anglicised.

Today, the Sunday after Christmas, is by tradition a holiday for our Kirk choir and also for our Ministry team.

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/>

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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 a 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. Leave a message with the Kirk office 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 more joint services and events with St Cuthbert's 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.