

ORDER OF SERVICE - 4 FEBRUARY 2024

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 4 February 2024 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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.

The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

Psalm 29:11

Organ: Trio sonata no.2 in C minor, 1st movt.

J. S. Bach
(Calum Landon, organ)

Introit: Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives. To decline from sin, and incline to virtue, that we may walk in an upright heart before thee this day and evermore. Amen.

Lidley's Prayers, 1566

Richard Farrant

Welcome and Call to Worship: Gillian Couper

Leader: Come to this time of worship.

All: *We bring our hearts and our minds.*

Leader: Come with your joys and your wounds.

All: *We bring them all before God.*

Leader: Come, trust that God will raise us up.

All: *We bring praise to the Lord of Creation.*

Leader: Now let us join our hearts, and our joys and our praise together;
let us worship God in song.

Hymn 160:

1. *Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him! Praise the everlasting King.*
2. *Praise him for his grace and favour to our fathers in distress;
praise him, still the same for ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless;
Praise him! Praise him! glorious in his faithfulness.*
3. *Father-like he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him! Praise him! widely as his mercy flows.*

4. *Frail as summer's flower we flourish; blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Praise him! Praise him! Praise the high eternal One.*
5. *Angels, help us to adore him; ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him! Praise with us the God of grace.*

Henry Francis Lyte

Call to Prayer

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

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

Collect for the Day: *Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* *Amen*

Hymn 103 (Psalm 147):

Rhuddlan

1. *Fill your hearts with joy and gladness, sing and praise your God and mine!
Great the Lord in love and wisdom, might and majesty divine!
He who framed the starry heavens knows and names them as they shine.*
2. *Praise the Lord, his people, praise him! Wounded souls his comfort know;
those who fear him find his mercies, peace for pain and joy for woe;
humble hearts are high exalted, human pride and power laid low.*
3. *Praise the Lord for times and seasons, cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;
spring to melt the snows of winter till the waters flow again;
grass upon the mountain pastures, golden valleys thick with grain.*
4. *Fill your hearts with joy and gladness, peace and plenty crown your days;
love his laws, declare his judgements, walk in all his words and ways;
he the Lord and we his children — praise the Lord, all people, praise!*

Timothy Dudley Smith

The Word of God

Isaiah 40: 21 - 31

Reader: Emma Richardson

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God' ? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Hymn 803:

(sung twice)

Sizohamba Naye

We will walk with God, my brothers, we will walk with God.

We will walk with God, my sisters, we will walk with God.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

Swaziland traditional

Mark 1: 29 - 39

As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

Anthem: When to the temple Mary went

When to the temple Mary went, and brought the Holy Child,
him did the aged Simeon see, as it had been revealed.

He took up Jesus in his arms and blessing God he said:

In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen, the Hope of Israel, the Light of men.

Help now thy servants, gracious Lord, that we may ever be
as once the faithful Simeon was, rejoicing but in Thee;
and when we must from earth departure take,
may gently fall asleep and with Thee wake.

tr. J. Troutbeck

Johannes Eccard

Sermon

Sue MacGregor

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

Hymn 517:

Duke Street
(and during which, **The Offering**)

1. *Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your strength, and Christ your right;
lay hold on life, and it shall be your joy and crown eternally.*
2. *Run the straight race through God's good grace, lift up your eyes, and seek his face;
life with its path before us lies, Christ is the way, and Christ the prize..*
3. *Cast care aside, lean on your Guide; his boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and your trusting soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.*
4. *Faint not, nor fear; his arm is near; he does not change, and you are dear;
only believe, and Christ shall be your all in all eternally.*

John Samuel Monsell

Doxology: *To Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, and is, and shall be evermore.*

St Magnus

Pastoral Prayer: Catherine Alexander

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:

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: piece

composer

(Kirk notices overleaf)

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Today	12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Thursday 8 February	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 11 February	10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Sunday 18 February	10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service 7.00 pm: Refugio – Holy Communion with silence and symbol.
Sunday 25 February	10.00 am: Holy Communion at St Columba's by the Castle, with our local ecumenical partner churches. 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.

Study Service

The Study Service will meet by Zoom this evening from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm. After an outline talk, there will be a discussion on **"How best to read the bible?"**

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

Concerts and Events at Greyfriars

Check out <https://greyfriarskirk.com/events/> for information on all our upcoming events and concerts. The regular lunchtime concerts continue this Thursday, 8 February, at 12 noon with a recital by student musicians from The Edinburgh Academy.

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 regular Coffee Morning from 10.30 am to 12 noon this Thursday, 8 February, and fortnightly thereafter.

Podcasts, Conversation and Cake

Some of us are gathering for informal, relaxed conversations about faith, belief and theology, inspired by podcasts. Think traditional book group, but podcasts instead. We're meeting at **5:30 – 7 pm** over the next four Mondays (**5, 12, 19 and 26 Feb**), on the sofas in the enterprise hub at the **Charteris Centre**, 138-140 The Pleasance. There is no need to book a place, to have been before, or to have any previous knowledge. Just listen (to what you can) and turn up!

Tomorrow's discussion will be based on a talk by Paula Gooder, who is Canon Theologian at St Paul's Cathedral. She describes 1st Century Christian life in Rome and the context for St Paul's writings, including the question "**who is Phoebe?**", in the podcast that you can find here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiN4KR_3PBU

Greyfriars & St Cuthbert's Update

The joint working group will produce a newsletter each month to 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 is available **today** on the table under the organ gallery, and will also be on the Kirk web site. Please do take a copy, and an extra one if you would like for others who either can't come to a service or tend not to access things online.

There is also a suggestions box on the table 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, anyone is warmly welcome to get in touch with Gillian or Jo if they would like to chat about things. 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.

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 Kirkyard Conservation Plan

On behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council, Dr Susan Buckham informs us that an **online public survey on Greyfriars Kirkyard** has just been launched. She is very keen that members of Greyfriars Kirk should be fully aware of the survey and be encouraged to express their views. The survey is at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Greyfriars-CMP>, and for those who find such modern technology a barrier, there are paper copies of the questionnaire on the table just under the organ gallery. Dr Buckham would especially value the responses of any of those who take part in the Kirk's concert programme or its visitor activities.

(over)

News from the Ministry team, and Pastoral Care

The Greyfriars ministry team are Sue MacGregor, Probationer Minister; Gillian Couper, Parish Associate; and Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC, Reader.

On completion of her remaining training requirements, Sue Macgregor will begin a three-year appointment as our Associate Minister. This takes us beyond the point of union with St Cuthbert's, when a minister will be recruited to the new united charge, and we are delighted to have the continuity of ministry that she represents.

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; and Bert at kerrigan@kerrigankc.com.