

ORDER OF SERVICE – 7 APRIL 2024

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

MINISTRY TEAM

Gillian Couper
Sue MacGregor
Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 7 April 2024 – Low Sunday

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: Variations on the Easter hymn 'O filii et filiae'

Jean-François Dandrieu

Welcome and Call to Worship: Gillian Couper

Hymn 412:

Vulpus

1. *The strife is o'er, the battle done; now is the Victor's triumph won;
now be the song of praise begun, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*
2. *The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions has dispersed;
let shouts of holy joy outburst, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*
3. *The three sad day have quickly sped; he rises glorious from the dead;
all glory to our risen Head! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*
4. *He broke the bonds of death and hell; the bars from heaven's gateway fell;
let hymns of praise his triumph tell, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*
5. *Lord, by the painful wounds you bore, death lost its sting for evermore;
living in you, our praises soar. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

17th c. Latin, tr. Francis Potts

Call to Prayer and Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

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

Collect for the Day:

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Hymn 485:

Repton

1. *Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.*
2. *In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word rise up, and follow thee.*

3. *O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity, interpreted by love!*
4. *With that deep hush subduing all our words and works that drown
the tender whisper of thy call,
as noiseless let thy blessing fall as fell thy manna down.*
5. *Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.*
6. *Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire, O still small voice of calm!*

John Greenleaf Whittier

The Word of God

Psalm 133

Reader: Cat McKellar

The Blessedness of Unity

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life for evermore.

John 20: 19 - 31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Hymn 468:

Blaenwern

1. Son of God, eternal Saviour, source of life and truth and grace,
Son of Man, whose birth incarnate hallows all our human race;
great High Priest who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead,
fill us with your love and pity, heal our wrongs, and help our need.
2. Lord, as you have lived for others, so may we for others live;
freely have your gifts been granted, freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of sea and land,
we but stewards of your bounty, held in trust at your command.
3. Come, Lord Jesus, reign among us, King of Love, and Prince of Peace;
hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease.
Yours the prayer, and yours the purpose, that your people should be one;
grant from heaven our hope's fruition: here on earth your will be done.

Somerset Corry Lowry

Sermon**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

Old 100th

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Prayer of Dedication and Pastoral Prayer: Margaret Wallace

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 413:

Ellacombe

1. *The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness, the passover of God!
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.*
2. *Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and, listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own 'All hail!' and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.*
3. *Now let the heavens be joyful and earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our Joy that has no end.*

St John of Damascus, *tr.* John Mason Neale

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: Sinfonia to the Easter Oratorio

J. S. Bach

(Kirk notices overleaf)

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Today	12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Thursday 11 April	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 14 April	10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Sunday 21 April	10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service 7.00 pm: Refugio – Holy Communion with silence and symbol.

Today, the Sunday after Easter, is a customary holiday for our Kirk choir.

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 by Gift Aid, Card or Standing Order

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.

Some people have experienced difficulties setting up new **standing orders** in favour of the Kirk using their online banking. Frustratingly, the problem originated when we were required to change the name of the Kirk's bank account, and it seems to affect payments from some but not all bank accounts. If this affects you, the solution is please to fill in a Giving form (available from Richard Leaver at the Kirk office, FinanceAdministrator@greyfriarskirk.com), for us to process with the Kirk's bank the old-fashioned way.

Stated Annual Meeting: next Sunday, 14 April, after the morning service, the Stated Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at 12 noon in the Choir Room. The only agenda item is the adoption of our statutory accounts for 2023, and this is the opportunity for questions and discussion. The accounts are on our kirk website under Notices and News, at <https://greyfriarskirk.com/community-notes/>

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.

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, 11 April, at 12 noon with the SPS choir of Edinburgh University students and their pianist Ailsa Aitkenhead.

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 on Thursday week, 18 April, and fortnightly thereafter.

Carbon Literacy Course

This course is for people who want to understand the climate emergency and to learn what they can do to tackle it. Everyone will be impacted by climate change, and everyone is welcome to the course, which will take place at Augustine URC on George IV Bridge on three successive Sundays (21 and 28 April, and 5 May) from 12.45 pm to 3.15pm. It will cover the science of climate change and issues of climate justice; how the wider community and local area will be impacted; the significant changes that we will all need to adapt to as Scotland moves to a low carbon future; practical actions you can take to reduce emissions; and how to communicate about climate change. Participants will gain an official Carbon Literate Certificate on completion of the course. For more information, and to register your interest, please email Katrina <katrina.tweedie@augustine.org.uk>

Sir James MacMillan talk

Sir James MacMillan's concert music is performed throughout the world, and he travels the globe to conduct some of classical music's top ensembles. Join music lovers across the city for a rare opportunity to hear insights from one of the world's most acclaimed composers in a talk about "Chant, the music of Faith, and its influence on the history of music" at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 23 April at St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Broughton Street. All are welcome, and you can book free tickets here: <https://bit.ly/StMarysM>

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. Later this year, Sue MacGregor will begin a three-year appointment as our Associate Minister, taking us beyond the point of union with St Cuthbert's, when a minister will be recruited to the new united charge.

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: to hear about how things are going at Greyfriars, to seek support or pastoral care, or simply to 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 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.