

ORDER OF SERVICE - 1 DECEMBER 2024

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

Greyfriars Kirk

The Rev. Sue Macgregor
Dr. Caroline Cradock

Associate Minister
Organist

Parish Church of St Cuthbert

Mr. Graham Maclagan

Director of Music

GREYFRIARS KIRK

PARISH CHURCH OF ST CUTHBERT

JOINT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT

Sunday 1 December 2024 – 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.

The season of Advent is traditionally a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both Jesus' birth at Christmas, and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming. Today's service of Lessons and Carols marks the beginning of this season and of the new Church Year.

Organ: Chorale prelude '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

Call to Worship

One: November ends. December begins.

All: *We find our beginning and our ending in God.*

One: Month after month, our God attends us and supports us.

All: *For God's company, we offer thanks and praise.
God who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,
the Living One and our Redeemer, now and forever.*

One: Let us worship the God who gives us Jesus Christ!

Hymn 273: O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Veni Emmanuel

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
3. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
4. O come, thou key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
5. 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.

18th c. Advent antiphon,
tr. John Mason Neale

Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

All: *and we have seen his glory. Alleluia!*

Advent Prayer and 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 for ever. *Amen*

The Word of God

Isaiah 40: 1 - 8

Reader: Jim McLean

The Prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Choir: Comfort, comfort now my people; speak of peace – so says your God.

Comfort those who sit in darkness, burdened by a heavy load.

To Jerusalem proclaim: God shall take away your shame.

Now get ready to recover; guilt and suffering are over.

Hear the herald's proclamation in the desert far and near,

calling all to true repentance, telling that the Lord is near.

Oh, that warning cry obey! For your God prepare a way.

Let the valleys rise to greet him and the hills bow down to meet him.

Straighten out what has been crooked, make the roughest places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble, live as fits God's holy reign.

Soon the glory of the Lord shall on earth be shed abroad.

Human flesh shall surely see it, God is ready to decree it.

Isaiah 40: 1 – 5, *tr.* Catherine Winkworth

Louis Bourgeois

Jeremiah 23: 5 - 6

Reader: Alison Noble

The Lord promises to send his people a righteous King.

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Hymn 472: Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Stuttgart

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley

Zechariah 9: 9 – 10

Reader: Alison Robertson

The Lord promises the King will come to Israel in peace.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Choir: Sleepers, wake! a voice is calling, it is the watchman on the walls: thou City
of Jerusalem! For lo! the Bridegroom comes! Arise, and take your lamps!
Hallelujah! Awake! His kingdom is at hand! Go forth, go forth to meet your Lord!

Philipp Nicolai

Felix Mendelssohn, *from* 'St Paul'

Isaiah 35: 1 - 6

Reader: Tom Richardson

The Prophet foretells the glory of the kingdom of God.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

Hymn 334: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Winchester New

2. Then cleansed be every heart from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty Guest may come.
3. For you are our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your aid we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
4. Stretch out your hand, to heal our sore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
once more upon your people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.
5. All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Charles Coffin, *tr.* John Chandler

Luke 1: 26 - 35, 38

Reader: Bridget Cameron

The angel Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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. 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.

Choir:

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!

'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!

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!

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, *tr.* Sabine Baring-Gould

arr. Charles Edgar Pettman

Mark 1: 1 - 15

Reader: Angela McSeveney

Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Choir:

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

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

Hymn 475: Christ is coming! Let creation
from her groans and travail cease;
let the glorious proclamation
hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ Is coming!
Come now, blessed Prince of Peace.

Neander

2. Earth can now but tell the story
of your bitter cross and pain;
she shall yet behold your glory,
Lord, when you return to reign:
Christ is coming! Christ Is coming!
'Come, Lord Jesus, come again!'

3. Long your exiles have been pining,
far from you, and rest, and home:
but, in heavenly glory shining,
soon their loving Lord shall come:
Christ is coming! Christ Is coming!
Haste the Joyous jubilee.

4. With that blessed hope before us,
harps be played and songs be sung;
let the mighty advent chorus
onward roll from tongue to tongue:
'Christ is coming! Christ Is coming!
Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!'

John Ross Macduff

The Offering

Corde Natus

*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.*

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession: Rebecca Grant

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 477:** Lo, he comes with clouds descending, Helmsley
Christ, the Lamb, for sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.
3. Those deep wounds of cross and passion
still his glorious body bears;
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
See! the day of God appears.
4. Yea, amen, let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for your own;
oh, come quickly, oh, come quickly, oh, come quickly,
Alleluia! come, Lord, come!

Charles Wesley

Benediction

Amen
(CH4 820)

Organ: O Clavis David (no.4 of 'O Antiphons')

Cecilia McDowall

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Today

9:15am – Early Communion

10:30am – Main Service

12:30pm – Gaelic Service

Thursday 5 December

1:10pm – Midweek Prayers

Sunday 8 December

10:30am – Main Service & Stewardship Sunday

12:30pm – Gaelic Service

Thursday 12 December

1:30pm – Midweek Prayers

Sunday 15 December

10:30am – Main Service

12:30pm – Gaelic Christmas Service

7pm – Refugio



More information on services and events can be found on our [website](#) or by scanning the QR code:

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 4 December

Edinburgh University Christian

Union Carol Service

Thursday 5 December

12pm – Greyfriars @ 12

Concert: The Ethan James

Quartet

Tuesday 10 December

7:30pm – Scottish Ensemble

Concert

Thursday 12 December

12pm – Greyfriars @ 12

Concert: Imogen Morgan

(organ)

7:30pm – Maggies Christmas

Concert

Saturday 14 December

7:30pm – Edinburgh Singers

Concert

Refreshments

You are warmly invited to join us after today's service for a chat over tea or coffee and biscuits, served at the back of the church beneath the organ. If you are new to the Kirk, or are visiting after some time away, please feel welcome to introduce yourself to the welcomers on the door and ministry team before or after the service.

Volunteers Festive Soiree – Save the Date

As a thank you for all the dedication and hard work of all our Volunteers here at Greyfriars, we would love for you join us on **Thursday 5 December from 3pm** for a festive soiree that we are holding in your honour. Please RSVP to Ellen in the office by **Friday 29 November** either by email, communications@greyfriarskirk.com, or phone the office on 0131 225 1900.

Sunday 1 and 8 December - 20% discount in Greyfriars Gift Shop

There will be a 20% discount for all congregation members and regular attendees at the Kirk gift shop on Sunday 1 and 8 December. The shop will be open for 30 minutes after the service.

Ministerial Team

We are pleased to share the news that our Associate Minister Sue MacGregor has been called to the vacant charge of Helensburgh Parish Church. She will go with our congratulations, our best wishes and our thanks for all she has done for us, first as a probationer and more recently in her current role during our vacancy, straddling Richard Frazer's retirement almost exactly a year ago. We expect actually to be saying farewell during February.

Greyfriars Charteris Centre: The last of the regular Coffee Mornings will take place on Thursday **12 December**. Dates for 2025 to come.

Saturday 7 December – Taizé Prayer at St Columba's by the Castle

Another ecumenical Taizé Prayer Service will be taking place on Saturday 7 Dec at 7pm at St Columba's. Rehearsal at 6pm and refreshments to follow.

Greyfriars & St Cuthbert's Update

We are pleased to publish the next "working toward union" newsletter. You can find it online or can pick up from the table under the organ gallery at the back of the Kirk. Members of the working group are very keen to hear from anyone with any questions, suggestions, or concerns, or if you would like to just have a chat and find out a bit more. Please speak to Gillian Couper (co-chair) gcouper@churchofscotland.org.uk; Jo Elliot, sessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com; Anne Bradbury, Maggie Cormack, Jamie Sutherland or Catherine Alexander.

Study Service - Sunday 1 December

The Study Service this evening will be a Bible Study on the preparation for Christ prefigured in the Old Testament, which is quite astonishing, not just for all that it outlined in advance, but even more so for the unforeseeable way in which it was actually fulfilled. The Study Service meets by Microsoft Teams from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For details of the link, email Bob Walker at < bob@hebrides.u-net.com >.

Ministry team and Pastoral Care

Our Associate Minister is Rev Sue MacGregor. 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. Please contact the Kirk office by phone (0131 225 1900) or by email to either minister@greyfriarskirk.com or contact@greyfriarskirk.com

Safeguard

If last week's sermon raised difficult issues for you, please contact the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service by calling **0131 240 2256** or email **safeguarding@churchofscotland.org.uk** for further support

Blessing of Edinburgh Nativity – Today, 2pm – New College Quad

The Rev'd Dr Perter Sutton will be leading the blessing of the Edinburgh Nativity up at the New College Quad this afternoon. Please join us for a beautiful interdenominational blessing service with carols, and input from many local church communities.

Advent Study Course - a short journey with the apostles

The first meeting of our Advent course takes place at St Cuthbert's at 3pm on Wednesday 4th December. We will be considering Colossians 1; 9-14 as our Scripture reading and please think of your favourite Christmas film and why it is so special to you. Please come along – All Welcome.

Giving by Gift Aid

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. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code that will take you to our donation page.

