

ORDER OF SERVICE - 15 DECEMBER 2024

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Sue MacGregor
Dr. Caroline Cradock
Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

Associate Minister
Organist and Choirmaster
Today's Preacher



GREYFRIARS

life in all its fullness / beatha na lànachd

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 15 December 2024 – Third 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: Chorale Prelude on 'Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen'

Johannes Brahms

Introit: This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love,
therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate is that God did man create;
the next thing which to you I'll tell, woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose;
and so a promise soon did run that he would redeem us by his Son.

Traditional

arr. R. Vaughan Williams

Welcome and Call to Worship

Hymn 489: Come down, O Love Divine,
seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

Down Ampney

2. O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let your glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3. Let holy charity
my outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

4. And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
we cannot guess its grace,
till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Bianco da Siena,
tr. Richard Littledale

Call to Prayer

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Pardon

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

Collect for the Day: *God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Amen

A Time For Reflection – Christmas Light

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Hymn 284: Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets,
never consumed, though it burns through the years;
dim in the daylight of power and privilege —
when they are gone, hope will shine on.

Galloway Tam

2. Peace is a candle to show us a pathway,
threatened by gusts from our rage and our greed.
Friend, feel no envy for those in the shadows —
violence and force their dead-end course.

3. Love is a candle whose light makes a circle,
where every face is the face of a friend.
Widen the circle by sharing and giving —
God's holy dare: love everywhere.

4. Joy is a candle of mystery and laughter,
mystery of light that is born in the dark;
laughter at hearing the voice of an angel,
ever so near, casting out fear.

5. Christ is the light that the prophets awaited,
Christ is the lion, the lamb, and the child.
Christ is the love and the mystery and laughter —
candles, make way! Christ is the day.

Richard Leach

The Word of God

Isaiah 12: 2 - 6

Reader: Van McKellar

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 4: 4 - 7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hymn 277 (Paraphrase 39):

Crediton

1. Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart exult with joy,
and every voice with song!
2. He comes, the prisoners to relieve,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken hearts to bind,
the bleeding souls to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.
4. The sacred year has now revolved,
accepted of the Lord,
when heaven's high promise is fulfilled,
and Israel is restored.
5. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's exalted arches ring
with thy most honoured name.

Luke 4: 18, 19

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Anthem: Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, Rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men. The Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in all prayer and supplication let your petitions be manifest unto God, with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Philippians 4: 4 - 7

Anon

Sermon: 'Joy and Love to Come'

Affirmation of Faith:

What do you believe when you confess your faith in “God the Father Almighty”?

That God is a God of love, and that God's love is powerful beyond measure.

What do you affirm when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as “our Lord”?

That having been raised from the dead he reigns with compassion and justice over all things in heaven and on earth, especially over those who confess him by faith; and that by loving and serving him above all else, we give glory and honour to God.

What do you believe when you confess your faith in the Holy Spirit?

*That apart from the Holy Spirit, our Lord can neither be loved, nor known, nor served.
The Holy Spirit is the personal bond by which Jesus Christ unites us to himself,
the teacher who opens our hearts to Christ, and the comforter who leads us
to repentance, empowering us to live in Christ's service.*

What do you affirm when you speak of “the life everlasting”?

That communion with Jesus Christ is eternal life itself. In him we were chosen before the foundation of the world. By him the eternal covenant with Israel was taken up, embodied, and fulfilled. To him we are joined by the Holy Spirit through faith, and adopted as children, the sons and daughters of God. Through him we are raised from death to new life. For him we shall live to all eternity. Amen

Hymn: We are a people of hope;
we are a people of hope.
Lighting a candle, we wait for the dawn;
we are a people of hope.

Table of Grace
(and during this hymn, **The Offering**)

2. We are a people of peace;
we are a people of peace.
Lighting a candle, we work for the dawn;
we are a people of peace.

3. We are a people of joy;
we are a people of joy.
Lighting a candle, we watch for the dawn;
we are a people of joy.

4. We are a people of love;
we are a people of love.
Lighting a candle, we welcome the dawn;
we are a people of love.

5. Christ is the light of the world;
Christ is the light of the world.
Lighting a candle, we witness the dawn;
Christ is the light of the world.

Table of Grace
mn, **The Offering**)

Barbara Hamm

Offertory Prayer and Pastoral Prayer: Tori Graham

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

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 century antiphon
tr. John Mason Neale

Benediction

Amen
at <CH4 Nnn>

Organ: In dulci jubilo BWV729

J.S. Bach

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Today

10:30 am – Main Service

12:30 pm – Gaelic Christmas Service

7.00 pm – Refugio

Thursday 19 December

1:10 pm – Midweek Prayers

Sunday 22 December

10:30 am – Sunday Worship at St Cuthbert's

7.00 pm – 9 Lessons and Carols at St Cuthbert's

NB: there will not be the usual morning service at Greyfriars, but the Kirk will be open from 10:00 am for anyone who would like to use the space for quiet reflection.

Tuesday 24 December, 5.00 pm – Christmas Eve Carol Service

Wednesday 25 December, 10:30 am – Christmas Day Service

Sunday 29 December, 10:30 am - Service of Holy Communion at St Cuthbert's

NB: there will not be the usual morning service at Greyfriars, but the Kirk will be open from 10:00 am for anyone who would like to use the space for quiet reflection.

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



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.

Study Service

The topic of the Study Service this evening is Christ's fulfilment of the Old Testament. The Hebrew Scriptures cannot be understood without the 'New Testament'. Equally, the New cannot be understood apart from the Old. The whole relation between God and Israel and the whole of humanity is so utterly astounding that its actual fulfilment in Christ could not possibly have been foreseen. We will look at the major bullet points of that astonishing fulfilment, then discuss as many of the most important biblical passages we can.

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 >.

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.

Shine a Little Light Project

Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson, the Moderator of the General Assembly, has issued a challenge with the potential to transform the lives of students in Malawi. We will be taking a special collection on Christmas Eve in support of this initiative.

Can you spare some funds to support an appeal that helps children to do their homework and advance their education with the aid of small solar lights they can borrow from a school's 'light library'? The funds will also be used to help PhD students at Zomba Theological University to study during hours of darkness.

Find out more here or by scanning the QR code:

<https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/?fund=128170>



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.

Ministry team and Pastoral Care

Our Associate Minister is the Rev Sue MacGregor and our Church of Scotland Reader is Prof Bert Kerrigan. 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



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.