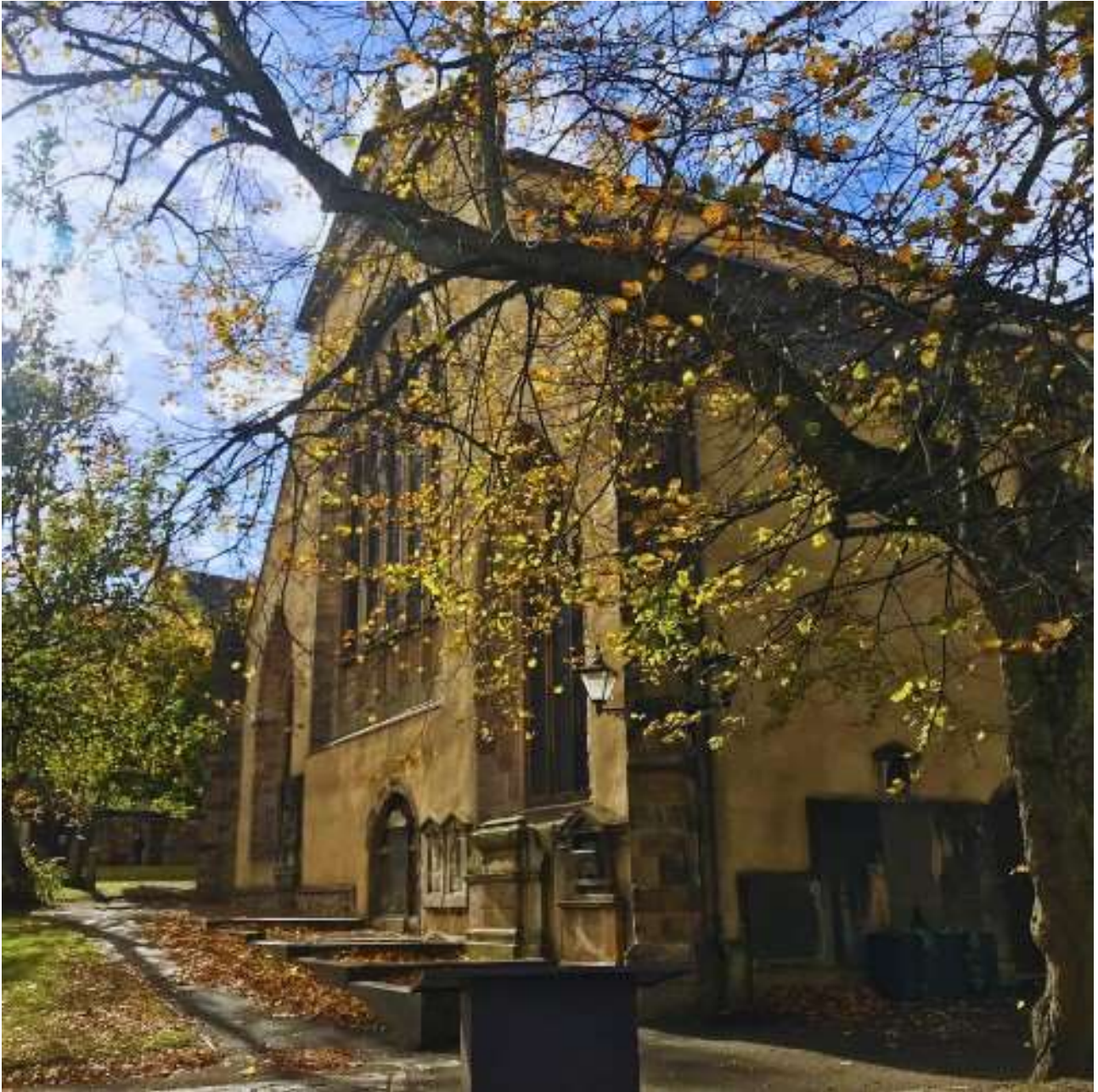


ORDER OF SERVICE - 8 DECEMBER 2024

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Sue MacGregor
Dr. Caroline Cradock

Associate Minister
Organist and Choirmaster



GREYFRIARS

life in all its fullness / beatha na lànachd

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 8 December 2024 – Second 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: A Fancy for a Double Organ

Orlando Gibbons

Introit: Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end.

Psalm 119: 33

Thomas Attwood

Call to Worship

One: The day of the Lord brings grace and blessing.

All: *We come to this day with hearts prepared for praising.*

One: The day of the Lord brings judgment and pardon.

All: *We come to this day with souls set on praying.*

One: The day of the Lord brings wisdom and light.

All: *We come to this day with minds eager to listen for God's will.*

One: In our praising, praying, listening, and responding,

All: *we come to worship God.*

Hymn 707: Healing river of the Spirit,
bathe the wounds that living brings.
Plunge our pain, our sin, our sadness
deep beneath your sacred springs.
Weary from the restless searching
that has lured us from your side,
we discover in your presence
peace the world cannot provide.

Joel

2. Wellspring of the healing Spirit,
stream that flows to bring release,
as we gain our selves, our senses,
may our lives reflect your peace.
Grateful for the flood that heals us,
may your Church live out your grace.
As we meet both friend and stranger,
may we see our Saviour's face.

3. Living stream that heals the nations,
make us channels of your power.
All the world is torn by conflict;
wars are raging at this hour.
Saving Spirit, move among us;
guide our winding human course,
till we find our way together,
flowing homeward to our Source.

Ruth C. Duck

Welcome and Lighting of the Advent Candle

Minister: On this day, with all the faithful of every time and place, we bear witness to the light of Christ: with Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the Lord, and look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

The Second Candle is Lit

With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we cry: "Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

All: *The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.
Alleluia!*

Hymn 619: Spirit of the living God, (please remain seated)
fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me;
break me, melt me,
mould me, fill me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

Daniel Iverson

Opening Prayers

Stewardship Prayer: *Almighty God, we thank you for all the gifts you have given us: our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank you for Jesus, your Son and our Redeemer, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life. Jesus was the perfect steward of your gifts, showing that complete trust in you is necessary, and that giving of self is a most important part of following Christ. May the offerings of our time, our talents, and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by his life and death for us.*

Amen

Hymn 247: Moved by the Gospel, let us move
with every gift and art.
The image of creative love
indwells each human heart.
The Maker calls creation good,
so let us now express
with sound and colour, stone and wood,
the shape of holiness.

Ellacombe

2. Let weavers form from broken strands
a tapestry of prayer.
Let artists paint with skilful hands
their joy, lament, and care.
Then mime the story: Christ has come.
With reverence dance the word.
With flute and organ, gong and drum
God's praise be ever heard.

2. O Spirit, breathe among us here;
inspire the work we do.
May hands and voices, eye and ear
attest to life made new.
In worship and in daily strife
create among us still.
Great Artist, form our common life
according to your will.

Ruth C. Duck

The Word of God

Deuteronomy 8: 1 - 18

Reader: Catherine Alexander

A Warning Not to Forget God in Prosperity

This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. The clothes on your back did not wear out and your feet did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the Lord your God disciplines you.

Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Romans 12: 1 - 8

The New Life in Christ

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Hymn 620: Spirit of the living God,
move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind,
makes us one in love,
humble, caring,
selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God,
fill our lives with love.

(please remain seated)

Michael Baughen

Matthew 22: 1 - 14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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

Anthem:

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

John 1: 19-23

Orlando Gibbons

Sermon: 'Responding to God's Invitation'***An Advent Creed:***

We believe in one God, who is Creator, maker of all we see and all we don't see.

Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!

*We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ, God from God, Light from Light,
true God and true human. He is one with the Creator; the Word made flesh,
our Messiah: Saviour of all creation!*

We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit, Breath of God moving among us;

Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ;

our Comforter and our Guide: Spirit of all creation!

Amen

The Offering

Tallis's Canon

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

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 237: Look forward in faith,
all time is in God's hand.
Walk humbly with him
and trust his future plan.
God has wisely led
his people by his power.
Look forward in hope,
he gives us each new hour.

Cardross

2. Look forward in faith,
the world is in God's care.
His purpose of love
he calls on us to share.
In our neighbour's need
the Lord is present still.
He blesses the meek!
The earth will know God's will.

3. Look forward in faith,
God gives us life each day.
Go onward with Christ,
his Spirit guides our way.
Now God lets us live
within the sphere of grace.
Trust ever in him,
he rules o'er earth and space!

Andrew J. Scobie

Benediction

Amen

Organ: Toccata in F, BuxWV157

Dietrich Buxtehude

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Today

10:30am – Main Service & Stewardship Sunday

12:30pm – Gaelic Service

Thursday 12 December

1:10pm – Midweek Prayers

Sunday 15 December

10:30am – Main Service

12:30pm – Gaelic Christmas Service

7pm – Refugio

Thursday 19 December

1:10pm – Midweek Prayers

Sunday 22 December

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

7pm – 9 Lessons and Carols at St Cuthbert's

NB: there will be no morning service at Greyfriars but we will be open during the usual time of worship from 10:00am for anyone who would like to use the space for quiet reflection

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 10 December

7:30pm – Scottish Ensemble
Concert

Thursday 12 December

12pm – Greyfriars @ 12
Concert: Imogen Morgan
(organ)

7:30pm – Maggie's Christmas
Concert

Saturday 14 December

7:30pm – Edinburgh Singers
Concert

Wednesday 18 December

and **Thursday 19 December**

7:30pm – SCO Chorus Concert

Saturday 21 December

7:30pm – Edinburgh Concert
Band Concert

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.

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.

(over)

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.

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 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.

