

ORDER OF SERVICE - 25 DECEMBER 2024

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Sue MacGregor
Dr. Caroline Cradock

Associate Minister
Director of Music



GREYFRIARS

life in all its fullness / beatha na lànachd

MORNING WORSHIP

Wednesday 25 December 2024 – Christmas Day

You are very warmly welcomed to Christmas worship at Greyfriars. All our services are available on our YouTube channel for viewing at any time at bit.ly/greyfriarstv.

Arise, shine, for your light has come; and over you the glory of the Lord has dawned.
Isaiah 60: 1

Organ: Variations on 'In dulci jubilo'

Denis Bédard

Call to Worship

One: We praise you, Lord, for you have come to us, you have comforted us.
Surely you, O God, are our salvation.

All: *We will trust in you and not be afraid.*

One: Surely you, O God, are our strength and our guard. With joy we draw water
from the wells of salvation and proclaim to the world the greatness of your name.

All: *Let everyone shout and sing! for our holy God is great, and lives among his people.*

Isaiah 12: 1-6

Hymn 306: O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Adeste Fideles

2. God of God, Light of light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God in the highest':
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Latin, 18th c.

The Lighting of the Christmas Candle

One: Today we celebrate the gift of the Incarnation, Emmanuel, God with us. We celebrate the birth of Christ who is the Light of the World — a Light no darkness can extinguish. Christ's Light can enter any darkness, and as members of the Body of Christ, we live in the Light of Christ!

All: *"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."* (John 1: 14)

One: Jesus, the Son of God, was born of Mary, to become human, one of us. He lived among us, experiencing our joys and hopes, our struggles and challenges. He came to bring us out of the darkness into which we had fallen and into God's wonderful, eternal Light.

(we light the candle in the centre — the Christ candle)

One: Ever-living God, as we light this fifth candle, the Christ Candle, we celebrate the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Light of the World. As His light shines in our hearts and homes, may we remember the true meaning of Christmas – the gift of Your love and grace. Thank You for the hope, peace, joy, and love that this Advent season has brought into our lives. We welcome the birth of Jesus with open hearts and gratitude.

All: *Light of light, you have come among us. Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world. Glory to God in the highest.* Amen

Hymn 323: The first Nowell the angel did say The First Nowell
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2. They lookèd up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Traditional

Prayers for Christmas Day

The Word of God

Luke 2: 1 - 20

Reader: Peter Rae

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Anthem: Mary had a baby, yes, Lord! Mary had a baby, yes, my Lord!
Mary had a baby, yes, Lord! The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone.
What did she name him? Yes, Lord! What did she name him? Yes, my Lord!
What did she name him? Yes, Lord!
The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone.
Named him Jesus, yes, Lord! Named him Jesus, yes, my Lord!
Named him Jesus, yes, Lord! The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone.
Mary had a baby, yes, Lord! Mary had a baby, yes, my Lord!
Mary had a baby, yes, Lord! The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone.

Spiritual

arr. Stephen Doughty

Reflection: "Rejoicing in the Light of Christmas"

Hymn 320: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Antioch
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy,

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love. Isaac Watts

Pastoral Prayer: Peter Rae

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 301: Hark! The herald angels sing Mendelssohn

'Glory to the new-born king;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.'

Joyful all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic hosts proclaim
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Hark! the herald angels sing
'Glory to the new-born king'.

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! the herald angels sing
'Glory to the new-born king'.

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in His wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:

Hark! the herald angels sing
'Glory to the new-born king'.

Charles Wesley

Collect for Christmas: *Ever-living God, your Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem. Grant that the light of faith may illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.* Amen

Blessing

Organ: In dulci jubilo BWV729

J.S. Bach

NOTES

Forthcoming Services:

Thursday 26 December (no mid-week prayers this Thursday)

Sunday 29 December **10.30 am:** Holy Communion at the Parish Church of St. Cuthbert
(Greyfriars Kirk will be open for quiet reflection)

Thursday 2 January (no mid-week prayers this Thursday)

Sunday 5 January **9.15 am:** Holy Communion at Greyfriars

10.30 am: Morning Worship at Greyfriars

12.30 pm: Gaelic Service