

ORDER OF SERVICE - 5 JANUARY 2025

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 5 January 2025 – Epiphany

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: The Holy Boy

John Ireland

Call to Worship

One: A new day has dawned, a new year begun -

All: *O Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice.*

One: The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future -

All: *O Lord, keep us in Your ways and on Your path.*

One: We enter this new year with hope and excitement -

All: *O Lord, guide us as we look to You, and worship You.*

Hymn 103: Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
sing and praise your God and mine!
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,
might and majesty divine!
He who framed the starry heavens
knows and names them as they shine.

Rhuddlan

2. Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!
Wounded souls his comfort know;
those who fear him find his mercies,
peace for pain and joy for woe;
humble hearts are high exalted,
human pride and power laid low.

3. Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;
spring to melt the snows of winter
till the waters flow again;
grass upon the mountain pastures,
golden valleys thick with grain.

4. Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
peace and plenty crown your days;
love his laws, declare his judgements,
walk in all his words and ways;
he the Lord and we his children —
praise the Lord, all people, praise!

Timothy Dudley Smith

Welcome and Opening Prayers

Collect for the Day:

Eternal God, by a star you led the wise to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Hymn 336: Christ is our light! the bright and morning star
covering with radiance all from near and far.
Christ be our light, shine on, shine on we pray
into our hearts, into our world today.

Highland Cathedral

2. Christ is our love! baptized that we may know
the love of God among us, swooping low.
Christ be our love, bring us to turn our face
and see in you the light of heaven's embrace.
3. Christ is our joy! Transforming wedding guest!
Through water turned to wine the feast was blessed.
Christ be our joy; your glory let us see,
as your disciples did in Galilee.

Leith Fisher

The Word of God

Isaiah 60: 1 - 6

Reader: Shirley Bell

The Ingathering of the Dispersed

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Ephesians 3: 1 - 12

Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

- Hymn 326:** As with gladness men of old Dix
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onwards, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare
at thy homely cradle bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.
5. In the heavenly country bright,
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
alleluia to our King.

William Chatterton Dix

Matthew 2: 1 - 12

The Visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Anthem: The Three Kings

Three kings from Persian lands afar to Jordan follow the pointing star:
and this the quest of the travellers three, where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King; gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heav'n afar our Jesse tree now bloweth.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray; the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
and there in worship they bend the knee, as Mary's child in her lap they see;
their royal gifts they show to the King; gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine, my soul with love o'erfloweth.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem the kings are trav'ling – travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace, shall lead thy heart to its resting-place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring; offer thy heart to the infant King. Offer thy heart!

Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,
rightly leads us, life bestowing. Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

Peter Cornelius, tr. H.N. Bate

arr. Ivor Atkins

Sermon: "Us" and "Them"

Affirmation of Faith:

We believe in God, the creator of all things, the giver of life and breath.

We believe in Jesus Christ, born Immanuel, God with us, baptized and revealed the most beloved Son of God; he sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself, suffering for us, dying for us and being raised from the dead for our sake and for the sake of all the world. We believe that he will come again.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, continually poured out refreshing our lives, leading us into a new day, ever-birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world. This Spirit is our soul companion and counsellor of truth reminding us of the gift of faith, the ever presence of God and the promise of eternal life.

Thanks be to God!

Amen

Hymn: We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star:

Kings of Orient

(and during which, **The Offering**)

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign:

3. Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worship him, God most high:
4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:
5. Glorious now behold him arise,
king and God and sacrifice.
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';
'Alleluia' the earth replies:

O star of wonder, star of light . . .

John H. Hopkins

Offertory Prayer and Pastoral Prayer: Stephanie 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:** Lord, your loving hand is seen in all that you have made so well; Thaxted
o'er the hills the eagle soars with grace that words can never tell.
Deep within our soul we sense you like our pulse, so very near;
the hands that we hold in life shall chase away our fear.
Yet this world is full of scars and many painful tears are shed,
so we ask your Spirit now to show the paths that we should tread.
2. Lead us now to cherish what we have instead of wanting more.
Fire us with that love that Jesus had, who always blessed the poor.
Bend our wills to plough the soil and serve all life by Holy Law.
As we seek to explain the world, fill all our minds with awe.
And help us hear anew the prophet's wise and timely word,
living justly, loving mercy and humbly seeking God.
 3. Years of barren desert wandering can shake our trust in you.
In a world so parched and dry it's springs of hope that we pursue.
Yet our courage can desert us, as we cling to tired ways.
Trust that lean times can turn once more to hopeful pilgrim days,
and that long-blocked springs will open up to all that travel on,
and our tears of sorrow shed in loss will turn once more to song. Richard Frazer

Benediction

*Amen
at CH4 820*

Organ: Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Dietrich Buxtehude
(Kirk notices overleaf)

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Today	9.15 am: Holy Communion 10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Thursday 9 January	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 12 January	10.30 am: Morning Worship, with Bert Kerrigan 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Thursday 16 January	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 19 January	10.30 am: Morning Worship, with the Rev. Matthew Bicket 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service 7.00 pm: Refugio – Holy Communion with silence and symbol.

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.

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 KC. 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.