

ORDER OF SERVICE - 23 MARCH 2025

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. W. John Carswell
Dr. Caroline Cradock
Prof. Bert Kerrigan QC

Locum Minister
Director of Music
Reader



GREYFRIARS

life in all its fullness / beatha na lànachd

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 23 March 2025 – Third Sunday in Lent

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: Elegy

John Rutter
Organist: Andre Theng

Introit:

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives. To decline from sin, and incline to virtue, that we may walk in an upright heart before thee this day and evermore. Amen.

Lidley's Prayers, 1566

Richard Farrant

Call to Worship

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

Psalm 103: 1 - 2

All: and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

All: and do not forget all God's benefits.

Leader: My eyes are ever toward the Lord,

Psalm 25: 15

All: who will pluck my feet out of the net.

Hymn 578: Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Ratisbon

2. Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3. Visit, then, this soul of mine;
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiance Divine;
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Charles Wesley

Welcome and Introduction

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Supplication

Collect for the Day: Almighty God, of ourselves we have no power to help ourselves. Keep us outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn 42: Only on God do thou, my soul,
still patiently attend;
my expectation and my hope
on him alone depend.

Howard

2. He only my salvation is,
and my strong rock is he;
he only is my sure defence;
I shall not movèd be.
3. In God my glory placèd is,
and my salvation sure;
in God I find my rock, my strength,
my refuge most secure.
4. Ye people, place your confidence
in him continually;
before him pour ye out your heart;
God is our refuge high.

Scottish Psalter, and others

The Word of God

Isaiah 55: 1 - 9

Reader: Laura Dunlop

An Invitation to Abundant Life

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 10: 1 - 13

Warnings from Israel's History

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Hymn 158: God moves in a mysterious way,
his wonders to perform;
he plants his footsteps in the sea,
and rides upon the storm.

London New

2. Deep in unfathomable mines
of never-failing skill
he treasures up his bright designs
and works his sovereign will.
3. You fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds you so much dread
are big with mercy, and shall break
in blessings on your head.
4. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense
but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence
he hides a smiling face.
5. Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
and he will make it plain.

William Cowper

Luke 13: 1 - 9

Repent or Perish

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

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

Sermon: 'Learning how to Repent'

Anthem:

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 3: 16 - 17

John Stainer

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

The Offering

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Offertory Prayer and Pastoral Prayer: Catherine Alexander

Leader: Lord, hear our prayer.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

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 465: Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought in the day or the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Slane

2. Be thou my Wisdom, be thou my true Word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father: thine own I would be;
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
4. Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.
5. High King of Heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

8th c. Irish, tr. Mary Elizabeth Byrne

Benediction

3-fold Amen

Organ: Herzlich tut mich verlangen (BWV 727)

J.S. Bach
Organist: Andre Theng

(Kirk notices overleaf)

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Today

10:30am – Main Service

12:30pm – Gaelic Service

Thursday 27 March

1:10pm – Midweek Prayers

Sunday 30 March

10:30am – Holy Communion at
Greyfriars with members
of St. Cuthbert's

12:30pm – Gaelic Service

Thursday 3 April

1:10pm – Midweek Prayers

Sunday 6 April

9:15am – Early Communion

10:30am – Main Service

12:30pm – Gaelic Service

Upcoming Events

Thursday 27 March

12pm Greyfriars @ 12: Apollo's Melody
(flute & harp)

Friday 28 March

7:30pm – Dunedin Consort Concert

Saturday 5 April

7pm – Organ Recital with Caroline Cradock and
John Kitchen

Tuesday 8 April

12pm – Organ and Trumpet Recital with
Caroline Cradock and Chris Hart

*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 the ministry team before or after the service.

Stated Annual meeting

Our 2025 meeting will take place at 12 noon on Sunday 6 April, in the Session Room. Besides adopting the 2024 statutory accounts, the meeting will also be an opportunity for an update on our progress towards the union with St. Cuthbert's, and for questions and discussion.

Congregation

The funeral of the Rev. Donald Stephen will take place on Friday 28 March at 11am in Marchmont St Giles, where he was minister for many years. The service will be conducted by Gillian Couper.

Kirk Porch

Our new operations manager Mark Harrison has been developing ideas about how we better utilise the Greyfriars Kirk porch as a means of engaging the high numbers of visitors who pass through the Kirkyard. The proposals, which are now supported by the Finance Management Group, include the installation of back-to-back commercial digital screens in the East window of the porch, which will allow us to share information about events and to signpost visitors as to what they can experience in the Kirk itself. We anticipate that these screens and other improvements to the porch set up will increase visitor numbers and their donations to the Kirk over time.

Our congregation members have generously supported capital projects in the past and we would be most grateful for any individuals who might wish to contribute to the costs of this project. If you are interested in hearing more and would be willing to support this initiative then please get in touch with our Finance Convener Andrew Campbell financeconvener@greyfriarskirk.com.

Parking

The kirkyard is owned and managed by City of Edinburgh Council and it is only with their continuing goodwill that we can park there for Sunday services and for evening meetings. Their particular concern is over uncontrolled parking which blocks our fire exit and access for emergency vehicles. Parking is therefore limited to those with mobility difficulties or leading services, and to a maximum of six cars.

So these are the ground rules:

- No parking in the kirkyard unless you are leading worship or music or if you need disabled access by reason of impaired mobility.
- Never have more than 6 cars parked in the kirkyard.
- Default is that we cannot park in the kirkyard.

City centre parking (for instance in Candlemaker Row) remains free on a Sunday until 12.30 pm and every day after 6.30 pm.

Volunteers

With our slimmed-down ministry team we are more than ever dependent on members of the congregation for the various essential roles to support our worship week by week. We are keen to expand the various rotas. Do get in touch if you can help, even if only once in a while.

For bible reading and pastoral prayers, contact Naomi Stewart <naomistewart23@gmail.com>; for welcoming at the door, contact either Jo Elliot <sessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com> or Bob Bradley <robertbradley152@gmail.com>; for catering, contact Isobel Hutchings <bertishutchings@btinternet.com>; for live streaming, contact Peter Rae <peterwhrae@btinternet.com>; for midweek prayers, contact Shirley Bell <shirley12bell@gmail.com>; and for choir and music, Caroline Cradock <organist@greyfriarskirk.com>. Many thanks.

(over)

Study Service

This evening the Study Service will concentrate on the end of Jesus' life, his suffering and crucifixion as the chief event of his mission. What if we saw it as he did, one whole event, from birth through early years, to baptism, temptations, preaching and healing ministry, passover, cross, resurrection, and forty more days on earth before ascending to his Father for us, and then to rule and to send his Spirit?

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 Locum Minister is the Rev. Dr. W. John Carswell 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.