

ORDER OF SERVICE - 18 May 2025

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP

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

Locum Minister
Director of Music
Reader



GREYFRIARS

life in all its fullness / beatha na lànachd

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 18 May 2025 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

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: At Easter-tide

C.V. Stanford
Organist: Andre Theng

Introit:

Sacerdotes Domini incensum et panes offerunt Deo: et ideo sancti erunt Deo suo et non pollutent nomen eius. Alleluia.

(Then did the priests make offering of incense and loaves of finest wheat to God: and therefore shall they be holy to their Lord and shall not defile his most holy name. Alleluia.)

Leviticus 21: 6

William Byrd

Call to Worship

Hymn 104 (Psalm 148):

St. John

1. The Lord of heaven confess, on high his glory raise.
Him let all angels bless, him all his armies praise.
Him glorify sun, moon and stars;
ye higher spheres, and cloudy sky.
2. From God your beings are, him therefore famous make;
you all created were, when he the word but spake.
And from that place where fixed you be
by his decree, you cannot pass.
3. Praise God from earth below, ye dragons and ye deeps:
Fire, hail, clouds, wind, and snow, whom in command he keeps.
Praise ye his name hills great and small,
trees low and tall; beasts wild and tame;
4. All things that creep or fly. Ye kings, ye vulgar throng,
all princes mean or high; both men and women young,
Ev'n young and old, exalt his name;
for much his fame should be extolled.
5. Oh, let God's name be praised above both earth and sky;
for he his saints has raised, and set their horn on high;
ev'n those that be of Israel's race,
near to his grace. The Lord praise ye!

Scottish Psalter

Welcome to Greyfriars Kirk

Prayer Of Approach, Adoration, Confession and Supplication

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

Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Reflection — General Assembly

The Word of God

Psalm 148 - Praise for God's Universal Glory

(read responsively)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

**He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds,
which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!**

Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

Hymn 619: Spirit of the living God
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.

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

Michael Baughen

John 13: 1 - 17

Reader: Nigel Robb

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.' After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.'

Jesus said, 'I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfil the scripture, "The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me." I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.'

Jesus Foretells His Betrayal

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, 'Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.' The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples — the one whom Jesus loved — was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.' So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, 'Do quickly what you are going to do.' Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, 'Buy what we need for the festival'; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

The New Commandment

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial

Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, where are you going?' Jesus answered, 'Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterwards.' Peter said to him, 'Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.' Jesus answered, 'Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.'

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

Sermon: Extravagant Love

Anthem:

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21: 1-4

Edgar Bainton

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe that God the Father is the giver of life.

I believe that God the Son lived on earth.

I believe that he had an earthly ministry for all people and their salvation.

I believe that he was put to death but rose from the dead through the power of God
and that his death was for the salvation of humankind.

I believe that through his disciples, the apostles
and the men and women he had influenced the Church was founded.

I believe in the priesthood of all believers.

I believe that His injunction to me is to participate in spreading a Gospel of love
which involves recognising my own worth and that of my neighbour.

I believe this calls me to stand for truth, justice, equality and dignity for all.

I believe in offering a hand to those in need and a shoulder to those who weep.

I believe that the Holy Spirit guides me in life.

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

Hymn 198: Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive;
built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
 all are welcome, all are welcome,
 all are welcome in this place.

Two Oaks

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
all are welcome in this place.

3. Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
all are welcome in this place.

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
all are welcome in this place.

5. Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
all are welcome in this place.

Marty Haugen

Pastoral Prayer: Alison Noble

***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 519: Love divine, all loves excelling, Hyfrydol
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

2. Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise. Charles Wesley

Benediction

Choral Amen

Organ: Paraphrase sur un chœur de Judas Maccabaeus

Alexandre Guilmant
Organist: Andre Theng

(Kirk notices overleaf)

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Today

10:30am – Main Service

12:30pm – Gaelic Service

7pm – Refugio – Holy Communion
with silence and symbol.

Thursday 22 May

1:10pm – Midweek Prayers

Sunday 25 May

10:30am – Main Service, joint Communion
with St Cuthbert's

12:30pm – Gaelic Service

Thursday 29 May

1:10pm – Midweek Prayers

Upcoming Events

Thursday 22 May

12pm – Greyfriars @ 12 Concert:

Jill Morton (piano)

Wednesday 28 May

7:30pm - The Gustavus Jazz Ensemble
& Gustavus Symphony Orchestra

Thursday 29 May

12pm – Greyfriars @ 12 Concert:

Chris Baxter (piano)

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



Refreshments

We are unable to offer our usual post-service refreshments of tea or coffee and biscuits today as it is Assembly Sunday when our Gaelic service at 12.30 pm forms part of the General Assembly programme. It will be attended by the new Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Reverend Rosemary Frew, and by Gaelic-speaking delegates to the Assembly. Our catering team will be busy preparing a buffet lunch to serve after that service.

If anyone does wish to have some refreshment after the service, the Grassmarket Community Project is open for teas, coffees and lunch. It is located in the Grassmarket at the foot of Candlemaker Row. We would advise heading down Candlemaker Row rather than going through the Kirkyard, as sometimes the Council do not open the lower gate on a Sunday.

Joint Communion Service with St Cuthbert's – Sunday 25th May

The Edinburgh Half-Marathon takes place on Sunday 25th May starting from outside the McEwan Hall at 10 am before the runners head down Forrest Road. For this year's Marathon, both Forrest Road and George IV Bridge will be closed to vehicles all day. Access **on foot** to avoid crossing the race route will be either via Guthrie Street, Cowgate, and Candlemaker Row, or via George Square, Middle Meadow Walk and Forrest Road. As there will be no buses either way on Candlemaker Row, the normal traffic restriction on it will not apply, allowing access to the Kirk **by car** for those with mobility difficulties.

Prayer Tree prayer tags

The Prayer Tree, which sits at the back of the church opposite the kitchen under the organ, is very popular with our visitors. It regularly requires pruning to allow for new prayer requests to be added. On the 4th May, John passed the basket containing the current crop to be passed round for members of the congregation to take some tags home to use in their daily prayers. The basket will be at the welcome desk every Sunday prior to the start of worship. Members are encouraged to take some tags home to make the intercessions that our visitors have requested.

Kirk Porch

The new screens are now in place and the content is being added. There will be information about both worship and the other activities in the church, which it is hoped will be valuable to both congregation members and visitors.

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.

This illustration has been provided by the Council to indicate where cars may be parked.



Volunteers – Sunday Worship

We are looking to expand the number of volunteers who provide valuable essential roles to support our worship week by week. There are various opportunities to assist and become more involved in the worship. We are keen to expand the various rotas so that the demands become less onerous. 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>

Volunteers - Opening Church for Visitors

We are also looking for friendly volunteers to join our Welcomers team.

Greyfriars Kirk welcomed over 100,000 visitors last year, a feat that wouldn't be possible without our fantastic volunteer team. As the first point of contact for visitors, our Welcomers help to enhance each visitor's experience by sharing knowledge, facilitating conversations, and assisting with purchases in the gift shop.

If you enjoy extending a warm welcome to others, and have an interest in the Kirk's history, please consider helping this important part of Greyfriars' outreach. We currently have available slots on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, and volunteers normally take on one 3-hour shift per week; whatever time you can give, we'd be delighted to hear from you. For more information, contact Meg at visitorops@greyfriarskirk.com

Charteris Community Coffee Mornings

The regular fortnightly coffee mornings have resumed – the next is on Thursday 29th May, at the Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 140 Pleasance, from 10.30 am.

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.