

ORDER OF SERVICE – 30 NOVEMBER 2025

GREYFRIARS KIRK



GREYFRIARS
KIRK

ST. CUTHBERT'S
PARISH CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 30 November 2025 – First Sunday of Advent

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

Organ: Chorale prelude 'Nun komm der heiden Heiland' J.S. Bach

Introit:

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud
covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come
to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
go ye out to meet him and say:
Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph
like a sheep, tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Advent Responsory

Giovanni da Palestrina, adapted

Call to Worship

Leader: Advent comes on us like a change of season
with new promise;

People: with a stillness of anticipation of the great gift
soon expected.

Leader: Advent comes as a reminder of God's favour
to Mary and Joseph,

People: that they, like us, have been prepared to welcome
the Christ Child.

Leader: Advent comes as an obligation to prepare ourselves anew
to receive;

People: to receive God's Son as part of his divine plan
for humankind.

Leader: Advent comes reminding us of the purity and hope
of new life,

People: and gives us cause for rejoicing that Emmanuel,
God with us, is hope and joy,

Leader: so let us worship God.

Hymn 273: O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

Welcome to Greyfriars Kirk

The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Leader: No one knows the day or the hour,

People: but we know the One who holds time in His hands.

Leader: We light the first Advent candle, which is known
as the Candle of Hope.

People: It symbolises the anticipation of Christ's coming
and the hope he brings to the world.

Leader: This candle reminds us that God's promise
of life and renewal still burns bright.

The Candle is lit

All: God of life, shine your hope into our hearts.
Kindle in us a light which radiates from us.

Prayer of Approach, Adoration, Confession and Supplication

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. at H. 648

Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Word of God

Isaiah 2: 1 – 5 (OT p. 658)

Reader: Van McKellar

Romans 13: 11 - 14 (NT p. 173)

Hymn 472: Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Cross of Jesus

Matthew 24: 36 - 44 (NT p. 29)

Reader: The Rev. Suzie Stark

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

Sermon

The Rev. Suzie Stark

Anthem: O thou the central orb of righteous love,
pure beam of the most high, eternal light
of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright
awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.
Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
gilding our darksome world with rays divine;
thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
as stars about thy throne, set in the height
of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.
Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
our nature all shall feel eternal day,
in fellowship with thee, transforming clay
to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

H.R. Bramley

Charles Wood

The Offering

Old 100th, *at H. 807*

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

The Rev. Calum Macdougall

Invitation to Holy Communion

Hymn 277 (Paraphrase 39): Hark, the glad sound!

Bristol

During communion, we offer a choice of drinking from a common cup (fermented wine) or from thimbles (pale non-alcoholic or dark fermented wine); the bread is gluten free.

Holy Communion

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 Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessèd is he, O blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei:

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

The Distribution

Music for Reflection: Méditation

Maurice Duruflé

The Peace

Pastoral Prayer: Nigel Robb

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 477: Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Helmsley

Benediction

Amen
at H. 820

Organ: O Clavis David (no.4 of 'O Antiphons')

Cecilia McDowall

NOTES

Forthcoming Services	Upcoming Events at Greyfriars
Sunday 30 November 12:30pm – Gaelic Service Thursday 04 December 1:10pm – Midweek Prayers Sunday 07 December 9:15am – Early Communion 10:30am – Sunday Service 12:30pm – Gaelic Service	Saturday 06 December 7:00pm – Pitchcraft presents: Snowtime! Tuesday 09 December 7:30pm – Scottish Ensemble: Concert by Candlelight Wednesday 10 December 7:30pm – Captivate Theatre: A Christmas Carol Thursday 11 December 7:30pm – Maggies Carol Concert Friday 12 December 6:00pm – Written in Light: Ukrainian Charity Concert Saturday 13 December 7:30pm – The Edinburgh Singers: Christmas at Greyfriars
Find information on services and events 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.

Car Parking

Please make sure you are aware of the rules regarding parking in the Kirkyard for Sunday Services.

- Parking in the Kirkyard is prioritised for those leading worship, music, involved in catering, or for those requiring disabled access by reason of impaired mobility.
- The ideal capacity is 6 cars parked in the kirkyard.
- Use the map below to understand where vehicles need to be safely parked.

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



Nativity on the Mound

The blessing of the Nativity scene at the Mound will take place today. This annual civic event begins at 3.00 pm in the Assembly Hall courtyard with the Salvation Army Band, then at 3.30 pm a service of hymns, reading, and prayer, with an introduction by the Lord Provost, three different city choirs, and several Edinburgh clergy of different denominations, including our own Locum Minister, the Rev. Calum Macdougall. At 4.00 pm all will move to the Mound (closed to traffic) for the final blessing.

Join us for Advent Study

Our Locum Minister, the Rev. Calum Macdougall, will be running an Advent Study starting on 30 November this evening, and for four Sundays until Sunday 21 December. The sessions will start at 6.00 pm, last for one hour, and will take place online via zoom. The chosen book is "Waiting For The Light" by William Delia, which is available from Amazon on Kindle or as a paperback.

Everyone interested is very warmly invited to take part in the Advent Study using the zoom link below (scan the QR code from the printed copy of the Order or click the link in the online copy on our website).



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86949388553?pwd=96Mw881riFicJFaEAFmTtl7Skalya8.1>

Our Ecumenical Partners

Advent morning retreat with St Columba's by the Castle

St Columba's will be hosting a retreat morning for Advent.

The session will run on 13 December from 10 am – 1 pm, and light refreshments will be provided, as will craft materials for making etc.

To register your interest, please email rector@stcs.org.uk

Find out more on their website:

<https://www.augustine.org.uk/advent-retreat-13th-dec-2025-10am-1pm/>

10% off at Coffee Saints in the Grassmarket Community Project

Our cafes Coffee Saints in Candlemaker Row and Little King St (by St Mary's Cathedral) are keen to welcome members of the Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's congregations for coffee, brunch or lunch, 7 days a week.

For a 10% discount on all orders please present this Order of Service.

Charteris coffee mornings

The regular fortnightly coffee mornings have resumed – the next one (the last before Christmas) will be on Thursday 11 December, at the Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 140 Pleasance, from 10.30 am.

Volunteers – Kirk weekday welcomers

We're 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 welcomer 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 get in touch with the Kirk office: volunteering@greyfriarskirk.com

Volunteers – Sunday Worship

We're looking to expand the number of volunteers who undertake essential roles in support of our weekly worship. There are various opportunities to assist and become more involved in worship. Please use the relevant contact information below to get in touch if you can help, even if only occasionally.

Bible reading and pastoral prayers Stephanie Rae stephanierae@btinternet.com	Welcoming team Jo Elliot sessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com Nigel Robb deputysessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com
Catering team Isobel Hutchings bertishutchings@btinternet.com	Tech team Peter Rae peterwhrae@btinternet.com
Midweek Prayers Gillian Couper Gcouper@churchofscotland.org.uk	Choir and music Caroline Cradock organist@greyfriarskirk.com
Flower team Mary Macpherson marybmacpherson@outlook.com Clem Bradley clementinabradley@gmail.com	Pastoral care visiting team Nigel Robb deputysessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com

Safeguarding

Your Church of Scotland Safeguarding Officer is Alison Noble.

You can contact Alison in person, via the church office, or by email: safeguarding@greyfriarskirk.com. There are posters displayed in the Kirk office and in the kitchen with more information.

Ministry team and Pastoral Care

You can contact our Locum Minister, Calum Macdougall, to discuss pastoral matters with him either by email: MMacdougall@churchofscotland.org.uk or arrange to meet with him by calling the Kirk office on 0131 225 1900.

You are very welcome to get in touch with our ministry team for any reason - whether to hear how things are going at Greyfriars, to seek support or pastoral care, or simply to share a cup of tea and a chat.

We would also like to hear from anyone who would like to join the Pastoral Care Visiting Team and offer to visit those who cannot attend Church.

Please contact the Kirk office to arrange a meeting with a member of the Ministry team.

Phone: 0131 225 1900

Email: contact@greyfriarskirk.com.

Offerings by Gift Aid:

The Gift Aid scheme allows us to reclaim tax on offerings, by 25p in the £. If you are a UK taxpayer, please take advantage by using one of the envelopes in the backs of the chairs.



It is important to **fill in your name** (and address if you are not already on our list) – we have been getting some blank envelopes back which cannot be used for tax reclaim.

Alternatively, you can scan the QR code that will take you to our donation page.

Many thanks