

ORDER OF SERVICE – 14 DECEMBER 2025

GREYFRIARS KIRK



WELCOME
TO
WORSHIP

Rev. Calum Macdougall
Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC
Dr. Caroline Cradock

Locum Minister
Reader
Director of Music



GREYFRIARS

life in all its fullness / beatha na lànachd

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 14 December 2025 – Third 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: Nativity Pastorale

Jan Kuchar

Organist: Michael Anderson

Introit:

This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love,
therefore don't turn me from your door,
but hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate is that God did man create;
the next thing which to you I'll tell,
woman was made with man to dwell.

For we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose;
and so a promise soon did run
that he would redeem us by his Son.

Traditional

arr. R. Vaughan Williams

Call to Worship

Minister: The prophet speaks of gladness coming to arid places.

All: The desert will be filled with joy
and blossom will be everywhere.

Minister: We wait with longing, that we might witness
the renewal of God's Earth.

All: Waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert.

Minister: God's peace will open our eyes
and God's gift of hope will open our hearts.

All: The exiled shall return to Zion with songs on their lips.
Our hearts will be glad and we shall know joy of joys.

Minister: Let us worship God.

Hymn 474: Hail to the Lord's Anointed Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Welcome to Greyfriars Kirk

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Leader: In our Advent journey we have lit Candles of Hope and of Peace. We have been reminded that as Christians we are people of hope. We have been reminded that peace is not simply the absence of conflict; it is the deep assurance that God is with us and the stillness which comes when we trust his love. Today, we light the third Advent Candle, the Candle of Joy. This candle reminds us that the good news of Jesus coming was a cause for great rejoicing.

People: We read in Philipians 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone; the Lord is near.'

Leader: Joy is not the absence of hardship but the presence of God in every circumstance. Like the shepherds who heard the angel's song, we are invited to receive the good news with glad hearts and share it with the world.

People: May we, as the Shepherd's Candle is lit, be caring for the safety and wellbeing of all who constitute Christ's flock in this place.

The Candle is lit

Leader: Our joy comes from God; that joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of Heaven, and Mary and Joseph.

People: May we leave this act of worship with joy in our hearts and maintain that joy in the coming days.

Prayer of Adoration, Confession and Supplication

The Rev. Calum Macdougall

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. at H. 776

Collect for the Day: *God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* Amen

The Word of God

Isaiah 35: 1 – 10 (OT p. 687)

Reader: Mike Turpie

James 5: 7 - 10 (NT p. 248)

Hymn 290: The race that long in darkness pined

St. Magnus

Matthew 11: 2 - 11 (NT p. 11)

Reader: The Rev. Calum Macdougall

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

Sermon

The Rev. Calum Macdougall

Anthem: Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Philippians 4: 4 – 7

Henry Purcell

Affirmation of Faith

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through the Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe

- that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people and this is the message of Christmas.
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged.
- that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry.
- that God frees the prisoner, supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, and blocks the path of the ungodly.
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

To the one and only God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be the honour and the glory for ever and ever.

Amen

The Offering

Gonfalon Royal, *at H. 810*

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. Amen

Offertory Prayer

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

Hymn 259: Beauty for brokenness

God of the poor

Pastoral Prayer: Margaret Wallace

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 231: For the fruits of all creation

East Acklam

Benediction

Amen
at H. 819

Organ: Prelude and Fugue in F minor

Johann Krebs

NOTES

Forthcoming Services	Upcoming Events at Greyfriars
Today 12:30pm – Gaelic Service 7:00pm - Refugio Thursday 18 December 1:10pm – Midweek Prayers Sunday 21 December 10:30am – Sunday Service 12:30pm – Gaelic Service	Saturday 20 December 7:30pm – Edinburgh Concert Band Sunday 21 December 7:30pm - Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus Monday 22 December 7:30pm – Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus
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.

Church shop open today!

After this morning's service, the church shop, which is usually open when we are open to visitors, will be open for the congregation. Why not pick up some presents or tree decorations and support the church in the process? Generous discounts are on offer.

Beadle

Following an error in last week's Order of Service, please note that today is our longstanding Beadle, Damian Ryan's last Sunday with us.

We have been immensely grateful for his steady friendship and support over all this time, not only at Sunday services with his mastery of the sound system but also through Covid as we installed the live streaming and learned how to operate it. We wish him all the best in his future career.

With Damian's departure, we are looking to recruit a new Beadle. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in the position and finding out more information, please contact Operations Manager, Mark Harrison at outreach@greyfriarskirk.com.

Car Parking

In order to help us manage access to the Kirkyard can anyone who requires access to park please arrive between 10:10 am and 10:25 am. If there is no one at the gate then please call, and someone will come down to unlock the gate and let you in.

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.

Gaelic Service

Please note there will be no Gaelic Service on Sunday 28 December.

Midweek Prayers

Please note there will be no Midweek Prayers on Thursday 25 December or Thursday 01 January.

Join us for Advent Study

Even if you have not made it to the previous week, you are welcome to join our Locum Minister, the Rev. Calum Macdougall, for two more weeks of advent study. The study sessions start at 6.00 pm, last for one hour, and 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=96Mw881riFicJFaEAFmTtI7Skalya8.1>

10% off at Coffee Saints in the Grassmarket Community Project

Our cafes Coffee Saints in Candlemaker Row and Little King Street are keen to welcome congregation members for coffee, brunch or lunch 7 days a week.

Cards entitling you to the discount for the whole of 2026 are now available at the serving hatch at the back of the church, please take one with the compliments of GCP and fill in your name to validate it.

Charteris coffee mornings

The regular fortnightly coffee mornings at the Charteris Centre have finished for the Christmas break, and will resume in the New Year.

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

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.

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

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