

ORDER OF SERVICE – 21 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 21 December 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Greyfriars. All our services are available for viewing on our YouTube channel at < bit.ly/greyfriarstv >.

Organ: A la venue de Noel

Claude Balbastre
Organist: Michael Anderson

Introit: The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail, ' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Basque carol, *tr.* Sabine Baring-Gould

arr. Charles Edgar Pettman

Call to Worship

Minister: Where there is darkness across the Earth,

All: *we proclaim the Advent promise that the Light is coming.*

Minister: Where there is longing for harmony in a divided world,

All: *we proclaim the Advent promise
of the coming of the Prince of Peace.*

Minister: Where lives are broken by sickness,
cruelty and persecution,

All: *We affirm the coming of the child
who will promise abundant life.*

Minister: When we feel undeserving and unworthy
to receive the true gift of this season,

All: *We prepare to welcome the One in whose love and grace,
freely given, all are welcomed and valued*

Minister: Let us worship God.

Hymn 273: O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

Welcome to Greyfriars Kirk

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Leader: Hope, Peace and Joy are the three candles which have been lit over the last three weeks. Hope is a fundamental Christian value; Peace is the knowledge, Emmanuel, that God is with us; Joy is an enduring and essential Christian virtue. Today we light the fourth candle – the Candle of Love.

People: *God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son
that whoever believes in him shall not perish
but have eternal life.*

(over)

Leader: Whilst the love of God has been evident from the moment of creation, the marvel of Christmas is that love divine was expressed in the birth of the baby at Bethlehem.

People: *God's love is steadfast, unshaken by time or circumstance.*

Leader: In a world where love can feel transient or fleeting, God's love is strong and unending.

People: *We rejoice because perfect love has come to each of us in Jesus Christ.*

Leader: This candle reminds us that love is not just a feeling but a way of living - patient, kind and self-giving. We are called to love as God loves us.

People: *Love came down at Christmas
and still shines in our hearts today.*

The Candle is lit

All: *Lord, kindle in us a love that welcomes the stranger, freely
forgives the wrong, and earnestly seeks the good of all.
May your love burn brightly in us and through us,
this Advent and always. Amen*

Prayer of Approach, Adoration, Confession and Supplication

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
(Lord, have mercy.)

at H. 776

Collect for the Day:

*Heavenly Father, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be
the mother of our Lord and Saviour. Fill us with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your will, and with her rejoice
in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen*

Reflection – Catherine Alexander

My role in the Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Union working group

The Word of God

Isaiah 7: 10 – 16 (OT p. 663)

Reader: Joanna Storrar

Romans 1: 1 - 7 (NT p. 162)

Hymn 477: Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Helmsley

Matthew 1: 18 - 25 (NT p. 1)

Reader: The Rev. Calum Macdougall

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

Sermon

The Rev. Calum Macdougall

Anthem: Magnificat in C

My soul doth magnify the Lord. and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden: for behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scatterèd the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath fillèd the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promisèd to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Luke 1: 46 - 55

C. V. Stanford

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Creator by whose will all things came into being. As people of faith we share our Advent journey with Christ's people from near and far: praying trusting, waiting, as together we anticipate the coming of the one who fulfils God's promise of light and hope for all the world. We believe that in the child born in the stable and laid in a makeshift cradle, we behold the King of kings and Lord of lords. We marvel that God chose to come among us as a little child dependent on a teenage mother's devotion to him and to God who chose her. We believe that the coming of the Christ-child heralds a new order in which the lowly will be celebrated, the weak will be made strong, the humble will be acknowledged, the downtrodden will be lifted up, the hungry will be fed, the overlooked will be affirmed, the abandoned will be embraced and the peacemakers will be empowered. We affirm that as ministers of Christ we are called to make him our pattern for living and to glorify him in all our works.

Amen.

The Offering

Gonfalon Royal, at H. 810

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise God, the Trinity of love,
before, beneath, around, above.. Amen*

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People

Rosemary Scott

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 472: Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Stuttgart

Benediction

Amen
at H. 819

Organ: Sinfonia 'Wir danken dir, Gott'

J.S. Bach

NOTES

Forthcoming Services	Upcoming Events at Greyfriars
Today 12:30pm – Gaelic Service Wednesday 24 December 5:00pm – Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols Thursday 25 December 10:30am – Christmas Day Service Sunday 28 December 10:30am- Joint service of Holy Communion at St Cuthbert's	Today 7:30pm - Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus Monday 22 December 7:30pm – Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus Tuesday 23 December 7:30pm – Whitburn Band present: The Snowman
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.

Gaelic Service

Please note there will be no Gaelic Service on Sunday 28 December or on Sunday 4 January..

Midweek Prayers

Please note there will be no Midweek Prayers either on Thursday 25 December or Thursday 1 January.

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.

Newsletter: "The Kirk Post"

We hope that all of you enjoyed the first edition of The Kirk Post, which will now be sent out by email every two months or so. If you did not receive a copy, and would like to, please email Deborah in the Kirk office at communications@greyfriarskirk.com and she will add you to the distribution list.

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.

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