

ORDER OF SERVICE – 4 JANUARY 2026

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 4 January 2026 – Second Sunday after Christmas

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: The Holy Boy

John Ireland

Call to Worship

Minister: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God;

All: *for he is gracious, and songs of praise are fitting.*

Minister: He heals the broken-hearted, and binds up their wounds.

All: *He determines the number of the stars;
and gives to all of them their names.*

Minister: The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground..

All: *Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.*

Minister: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

All: *For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you.*

Minister: He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

All: *Praise the Lord!*

Minister: Let us worship God.

Hymn 319: Of the Father's love begotten

Corde Natus

1. *Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.*
2. *By his word was all created; he commanded; it was done;
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one;
all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.*
3. *O that birth for ever blessèd, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Spirit's power conceiving, bore the Saviour of our race,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.*
4. *This is he whom seers and sages sang of old with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.*
5. *All the heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions bow before him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.*
6. *Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.*

Prudentius, tr. J.M. Neale and H.W. Baker

Welcome to Greyfriars Kirk

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

Prayer of Approach, Adoration, Confession and Supplication

The Rev. Calum Macdougall

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

at H. 648

Collect for the Day:

God of power and life, you are the glory of all who believe in you. Fill the world with your splendour and show the nations the light of your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

The Word of God

Jeremiah 31: 7 - 14 (OT p. 761)

Reader: Nigel Robb

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.' For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the

old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Ephesians 1: 3 -14 (NT p. 205)

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Hymn 325: Bethlehem, a noble city

Stuttgart

1. *Bethlehem, a noble city, has been blessed beyond compare,
for the gracious God of heaven once became incarnate there.*
2. *Fairer than the sun at morning was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing, seen in human form on earth.*
3. *From the east came men of wisdom bringing treasures prized of old,
tributes to a greater wisdom, gifts of incense, myrrh, and gold.*

4. *Sacred gifts of mystic meaning: incense shows that God has come,
gold proclaims him king of nations, myrrh foretells his saving tomb.*
5. *Holy Jesus, in your brightness to the Gentile world displayed,
with the Father and the Spirit endless praise to you be paid.*

Prudentius, *tr.* Edward Caswall

John 1: 1 - 18 (NT p. 98)

Reader: The Rev. Calum Macdougall

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ' From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Sermon

Anthem:

Three kings from Persian lands afar
to Jordan follow the pointing star:
and this the quest of the travellers three,
where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heav'n afar
our Jesse tree now bloweth.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
and there in worship they bend the knee,
as Mary's child in her lap they see;
their royal gifts they show to the King;
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
my soul with love o'erfloweth.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
the kings are trav'ling – travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
shall lead thy heart to its resting-place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
offer thy heart to the infant King. Offer thy heart!

Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,
rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

Affirmation of Faith

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

We come on this first Sunday in 2026 to reaffirm our faith.

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God — born in Bethlehem, refugee in Egypt, kept safe in Nazareth until God willed him to begin his Ministry.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to all humankind. Remembering especially the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the broken-hearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised our Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

Though his Church has fallen into error over the centuries we are reformed and always reforming, respecting our fellow Christians in other denominations, and declare that we wish to work for the world in unity of spirit.

Amen

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

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

Hymn 305: In the bleak midwinter

Cranham

1. *In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter long ago.*
2. *Our God, heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain,
heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*
3. *Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.*
4. *Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim throngèd the air;
but only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Belovèd with a kiss.*
5. *What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.*

Christina Rossetti

Prayers of the People

Tori Graham

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 326: As with gladness men of old

Dix

1. *As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onwards, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.*
2. *As with joyful steps they sped, Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy-seat.*
3. *As they offered gifts most rare at thy homely cradle bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.*
4. *Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.*
5. *In the heavenly country bright, need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing alleluia to our King.*

William Chatterton Dix

Benediction

*Amen
at H. 820*

Organ: Chorale Fantasia on 'Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern'
Dietrich Buxtehude

NOTES

Forthcoming Services

Thursday 8 January	1.10 pm: Midweek Prayers
Sunday 11 January	10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service
Sunday 18 January	10.30 am: Morning Worship 12.30 pm: Gaelic Service 7.30 pm: Refugio – Holy Communion with silence and symbol.

News from the Ministry Team, and Pastoral Care

You can contact our Locum Minister, the Rev Calum Macdougall, at < MMacdougall@churchofscotland.org.uk > for pastoral matters. 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. Our Church of Scotland Reader, Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC, is also available to meet with you.

Please contact the office either by phone on 0131 225 1900, or by email to < contact@greyfriarskirk.com >.