

**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
AND EDINBURGH CASTLE**

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Sunday 14th September 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Cross Day

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Choral Song by S.S. Wesley

OPENING SENTENCE This is what love really is: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to atone for our sins.

1 John 4: 10

HYMN 132 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

(St Denio)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO PRAYER

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

PRAYERS including

We confess to God almighty, to all the company of heaven, and to each other, that we have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault.

Therefore we beseech almighty God to give us the grace of true repentance, to have mercy upon us, and cleanse us from our sins.

Lord have mercy. **Christ have mercy.** Lord have mercy.

ABSOLUTION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

ANTIPHONAL PSALM 14

Fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God.'

**They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is no one who does good.**

² The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind
**to see if there are any who are wise,
who seek after God.**

³ They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse;
there is no one who does good, no, not one.

⁴ Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers
**who eat up my people as they eat bread,
and do not call upon the Lord?**

⁵ There they shall be in great terror,
for God is with the company of the righteous.

⁶ You would confound the plans of the poor,
but the Lord is their refuge.

⁷ O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!
**When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.**

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now
And ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

EPISTLE

1 Timothy 1: 12 – 17

GOSPEL

St Luke 15: 1 – 10

SUNG RESPONSE

Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb;
take we the robe and the harp and the palm;
sing we the song of the Lamb that was slain,
dying in weakness, but rising to reign. (H. Bonar)

PRAYER OF GENERAL THANKSGIVING

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies: we, your unworthy servants, give you
most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to
us, and to all people.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by
our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and for the hope of glory.**

**Give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be
unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our
lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking
before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ**

our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

HYMN 160 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven *(Praise, my soul)*

SERMON

HYMN 555 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound *(Amazing Grace)*

OFFERING 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.

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.**

PRAYERS *ending with The Lord's Prayer*

HYMN 153 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father *(Faithfulness)*

THE BENEDICTION *ends with sung Amen*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Fugue by S.S. Wesley*

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**Welcome** to Canongate Kirk. This morning we extend a special welcome to all visitors - please join us in the foyer for tea and coffee after the service. Our service today is led by Andrew Henshaw while the Minister is on duty with the Order of St John at its Grand Council meeting in Canberra, Australia. Please be aware we have an induction loop system for the benefit of those who use hearing aids.

A livestreamed video of today's service is available on our website [www.canongatekirk.org.uk](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk) - feel free to share the link. The latest edition of our monthly newsletter is available on the website and paper copies can be found at the back of the church. If you would like to receive it by e-mail, please get in touch with the office.

**Riding of the Marches** This spectacular event will take place today. It's free to watch and entertainment starts at around midday. The horses will be making their way up the Royal Mile to muster by the Mercat Cross opposite the City Chambers, usually around 4pm. Parking restrictions on the Royal Mile will be in force from 11.30am so if you have parked on the street you will need to move your car promptly to avoid the traffic wardens. <https://edinburghridingofthemarches.com/>

**Men & Women's 10k Race** Please note this takes place next Sunday morning and the Royal Mile will be closed to traffic between 7.30am and 12.30pm. Please allow a little longer than usual to access the surrounding streets.

**September Concert** First Presbyterian Chancel Choir on tour from Marietta, Georgia in the USA will hold a concert at 6pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Admission Free.

**Kirk Session** The next meeting of the Kirk Session will be on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm in the Harry Younger Hall. The kirkyard gates will be left open to allow for parking if required. As always church membership will be included on the agenda and if anyone would like to have their name added to the roll they should have a word with the Minister or Session Clerk.

**Harvest Thanksgiving** Advance notice that our traditional service of Harvest Thanksgiving will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am. The congregation is invited to bring along donations of non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries, which will be transferred afterwards to the Trussell Trust Edinburgh Foodbank network. Cash donations may also be given for our own Homeless Fund.

**Christmas Comes Early** Members of our congregation are welcome to attend the recording of a Christmas service to be broadcast on BBC TV in December. This will take place in St Giles' on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 4pm. Doors open at 3.15pm. Please sign up on Eventbrite to give them an idea of how numbers are going, and please take the opportunity to invite friends and family to the occasion. Please register on the Eventbrite link <http://bit.ly/4m8k116>

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| <p><b><i>St Giles at Six - FREE concert tonight:</i></b> Rudsambee. <i>Scotland at Night</i>: a selection of Scottish choral music, including classic folksong arrangements and exciting contemporary works. <a href="http://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events">www.stgilescathedral.org.uk /events</a></p> |
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