

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

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**Minister: The Revd Neil Gardner LVO MA BD DL**

**Organist: Mr Simon Leach FISM GMusRNCM**



**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**Battle of Britain Sunday**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*Chanson du Matin* by Edward Elgar

**OPENING SENTENCE**

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, long-suffering and ever faithful. The Lord is good to all; his compassion rests upon all his creatures.

*Psalm 145: 8 – 9*

**HYMN 200** Christ is made the sure foundation

*(Westminster Abbey)*

**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 79: 1 – 9

O God, the nations have come into your inheritance;

**they have defiled your holy temple;**

**they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.**

<sup>2</sup> They have given the bodies of your servants

to the birds of the air for food,

**the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth.**

<sup>3</sup> They have poured out their blood like water

all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.

<sup>4</sup> **We have become a taunt to our neighbours,**

mocked and derided by those around us.

<sup>5</sup> **How long, O Lord? Will you be angry for ever?**

Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?

<sup>6</sup> **Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you,**

and on the kingdoms that do not call on your name.

<sup>7</sup> **For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.**

<sup>8</sup> Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors;

**let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.**

<sup>9</sup> Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;

**deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.**

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 2: 1 – 7

GOSPEL

St John 13: 1 – 17

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 97      O God, you search me and you know me

SERMON

HYMN 694      Brother, sister, let me serve you *(Servant Song)*

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 642      Ye that know the Lord is gracious *(Abbot's Leigh)*

THE BENEDICTION *ends with sung Amen*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Fugue in F major BWV 540 by J S Bach*

**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 Elspeth McPheat DCS while the Minister is on his way home from attending the Grand Council of the Order of St John in 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.

**Next Sunday** Our morning service next Sunday will incorporate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, followed later that day with our monthly united Evening Service with St Giles' here at 7pm. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome.

**Kirk Session** The next meeting of the Kirk Session will be 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.

**Sunday Rotas** Please sign up to help if you can with tea/coffee after the service, reading lessons, arranging flowers or being part of a Sunday welcome team. We remain open at weekends and there is also a rota in the foyer for volunteers to sign up for Open Kirk on Saturdays (mornings and afternoons) and Sunday afternoons. Please help if you can. There are still a lot of visitors and tourists on the Royal Mile!

**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>

<p><b><i>St Giles at Six - FREE concert tonight:</i></b> Matthew Coleridge – <i>Requiem</i>. A performance of Matthew Coleridge's Requiem, directed by the composer, and accompanied by Jordan English. <a href="http://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events">www.stgilescathedral.org.uk /events</a></p>
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