

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

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Sunday 26th April 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sacrament of Holy Communion

We have come together as the family of God
in our Father's presence
to offer him praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive his holy word,
to bring before him the needs of the world,
to ask his forgiveness of our sins,
and to seek his grace,
that through his Son Jesus Christ
we may give ourselves to his service.

Acknowledge that the Lord is God; he made us, and we are his, his own people,
the flock which he shepherds.

Psalm 100:3

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude in B minor BWV 544 by J S Bach

OPENING SENTENCE

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

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you,

and worthily magnify your holy name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

ABSOLUTION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

ANTIPHONAL PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures;**

he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ **Even though I walk through the darkest valley,**

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me**

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

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.

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 52 How lovely is thy dwelling place (*Harington*)

REFLECTION

HYMN 462 The King of love my shepherd is (*Dominus Regit Me*)

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.**

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYERS including:

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... therefore, with your people of all places and times, and with the whole company of heaven, we proclaim your greatness and sing your praise in the angels' song:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory:
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off you met us in your Son
and brought us home.**

**Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.**

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your
children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN 120 God, we praise you. God we bless you. *(Ode to Joy)*

THE BENEDICTION ends with sung **Amen**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Fugue in B minor BWV 544* by J S Bach



Welcome back to Canongate Kirk! After sixteen Sundays in the Harry Younger Hall it's wonderful to be back in our redecorated sanctuary. There is still a little paintwork to be completed, primarily the final coats of gloss paint to the pews in the nave. But that will soon be done and then the regimental colours and standards will be returned to their usual places. Thanks to a generous benefactor, we have also taken the opportunity to install a new audio-visual system – adjustments will need to be made during the first week or two so please bear with us as we try to get the settings right, both for the congregation in the pews and those watching on-line. Since we last met in the Kirk, the city council – which owns the kirkyard – have tightened up on their rules about the gate. Frustrating as it may be, we can no longer leave the gate open and unattended, so please avoid driving in unless you really need to.

As usual on this last Sunday of the month our service incorporates the **Sacrament of Holy Communion**. The bread is gluten free and the wine port with a touch of water. Please note that individual glasses will be available in the King David Aisle only, at the far right hand side of the church. Those sitting in the nave, either side of the central aisle, will be served with a common cup. Please choose your pew according to whether you prefer common cup or individual glass. 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 - feel free to share the link. The latest edition of our monthly newsletter is now 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.

Evening Service Our monthly united service with St Giles' will take place TONIGHT at 7pm here in Canongate Kirk. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome.

Kirk Session A reminder that the next meeting is TOMORROW, Monday 27th April at 6pm in the Harry Younger Hall.

Yehudi Menuhin School Concert On Friday 1st May at 6.30pm join us for our annual treat from some incredibly talented young musicians from Surrey performing music by Mendelssohn, Bach, Schubert, Ravel and Moszkowski. Not to be missed! All proceeds to Kirk funds. Tickets £15/£7.50 on the door or from <https://www.musicinblairatholl.org.uk/tickets/> or Eventbrite.

Christian Aid Sale The annual book sale will take place at Edinburgh New Town Church (formerly St Andrew's & St George's West) in George Street, starting on Saturday May 9th and then continuing from Monday 11th to Friday 15th May. Books, toys, stamps, music and more can be dropped off from 9am to 8pm on April 27th – May 2nd and May 4th – May 7th. For more information visit <https://www.edinburghnewtownchurch.org.uk/work/christian-aid-sale/>

Stamps We have found a company who will recycle used stamps with the money coming directly to the Kirk so please continue to bring any used stamps along to church and put them in the box at the back of the church. We would just ask that you trim the stamps leaving a margin of about a quarter of an inch (0.6cms) around them. The first 10kg sack is ready to go and another one is nearly full. They also recycle other items – have a look at the poster for details.

Sunday Rotas Now that we are back in the kirk, 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.

St Giles at Six: FREE concert tonight. Young Virtuosi – The Students of BingBing Li. Free entry, with an optional donation. Register on Eventbrite <https://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events>

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