

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

www.canongatekirk.org.uk

email:canongatekirk@btinternet.com

Tel: 0131 556 3515

Minister: The Revd Neil Gardner LVO MA BD DL

Organist: Mr Simon Leach FISM GMusRNCM



Sunday 7th December 2025

Advent 2

OPENING VOLUNTARY	<i>Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland</i> by J.S. Bach
OPENING SENTENCE The Lord God has warned them time and again through his messengers, for he took pity on his people and on his dwelling-place. <i>2 Chronicles 36: 15</i>	

HYMN 472 Come, thou long expected Jesus (Stuttgart)

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 72: 1 – 7, 18 – 19

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

**³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.**

**⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**

**⁵ May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.**

**⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

**⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.**

**¹⁸ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.**

**¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name for ever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.**

Amen and Amen.

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.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 11: 1 – 10

GOSPEL

St Matthew 3: 1 – 12

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 334 **On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry** *(Winchester New)*

SERMON

HYMN 291 **When out of poverty is born** *(Kingsfold)*

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 519 **Love divine, all loves excelling** *(Hyfrydol)*

THE BENEDICTION *ends with sung Amen*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Fugue in B minor BWV 544 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. 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 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. The monthly service at Croft an Righ, Abbeyhill, takes place a week early, this afternoon, at 4pm, and takes the form of a mini Lessons and Carols. Members of the congregation are more than welcome to attend and stay for a chat afterwards. Next Sunday, the morning service will incorporate the Sacrament of Baptism.

Christmas Choir Our annual service of Lessons and Carols takes place on Sunday 21st December. With this in mind our usual 'home-grown' choir is invited to gather round the piano for rehearsals at 9.30am every Sunday from now on. First timers welcome! Please come if you can, previous experience not necessary.

Craft Club This month's meeting of the Craft Club will be tomorrow, Monday 8th December from 6.30pm – 8pm in the Harry Younger Hall. Crafters and non-crafters, skilled and non-skilled alike are welcome!

Christmas Cards Previous editions are now on sale in the foyer of the Kirk at the bargain price of £2 per pack of 10, either size. We have also received a generous donation of a number of new Heritage type cards which are individually priced at £3 each for the small size and £4 for the larger. Please put money in the donations box – all sales will go towards Kirk funds.

Future Fundraising Events On Friday 12th December at 6pm the Pipes and Drums of the Scots Guards are holding an event called *Talent Among Heroes*. Admission is free with retiring collection for our redecoration project. Then on Tuesday 16th December our congregational Christmas Supper will take place in the Harry Younger Hall at 6.45pm. As this year's supper is also a fund raising event towards re-decoration of the church in 2026, tickets are at the slightly increased price of £20. Available today.

Scottish Parliament On Wednesday 17th December the Scottish Parliament will be holding its annual carol service. The evening will consist of traditional Christmas carols and readings and include contributions from Members of the Scottish Parliament and community groups and will take place in the Parliament from 6.15pm to approximately 7.30pm. Festive cheer will also be provided in the form of traditional Christmas fare, including mulled wine/fruit juice and mince pies served in the Main Hall following the service. Ten places have been reserved for members of the congregation. Please add your name and contact

details to the form at the back of the church by Wednesday 10th December if you would like to attend.

Washbags for Crisis at Christmas We have once again been asked to help supply washbags to Crisis, the local charity for the homeless. These can be brought to church or handed in at the church office up to and including Sunday 21st December. Last year they were able to support nearly 600 people over Christmas, including providing over 300 packs of gifts and essentials to people experiencing homelessness. Crisis say that washbags should contain no alcohol (including wipes, mouthwash etc.) or glass containers. No medications/painkillers either please. For hygiene reasons they ask that everything is new and unopened. Razors and nail cutters etc. which previously were not allowed are fine now. A suggested list of items includes shower-gel, soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, flannel and anything else you would usually find in a washbag. According to the Crisis team, our donations last year were wonderful, the best yet!

Free Will Offering Envelopes These will be available shortly. However, as we are now having to pay bank charges on all cash paid into the bank, we would encourage you to consider switching to a monthly Standing Order if possible. Please speak to the Treasurer for more details. Thank you to those who have already made the switch.

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 to visitors at weekends so there is also a rota in the foyer for volunteers to sign up for Open Kirk on wedding-free 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 CAROL SERVICES

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend any of these remaining charity carol services:

Wednesday 10th December	6pm	Crisis Homeless Charity
Thursday 11th December	7pm	Order of St John
Sunday 14th December	4pm	Royal British Legion Scotland

CONCERTS IN DECEMBER

Friday 12th December	6pm	Army Piping and Drumming Event
Saturday 20th December	7.30pm	St Andrew Camerata

St Giles' at Six - FREE concert tonight: Organ Recital - Jack Oades, organist and Master of the Music at St Giles' Cathedral. www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events

Church Copyright Licence 1896456

TALENT AMONG HEROES

**PIPES & DRUMS OF THE
1ST BATTALION SCOTS GUARDS**



**CANONGATE KIRK, ROYAL MILE,
EDINBURGH**

12TH DECEMBER 6PM

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



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

Sunday 21st December

10.30am Service of Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 24th December

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Watchnight Service

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 28th December

10.30am Holy Communion

At all these services there will be a retiring offering in aid of our Christmas Appeal. This year it is in aid of Sunflower Scotland, an Edinburgh-based charity which supports families in Ukraine. Donations may also be channelled through the Kirk office.

