

**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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Baptism of the Lord**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**      *Prelude in B ♭ Major BWV 825 by J.S.Bach*

**OPENING SENTENCE**    There came a voice from heaven, saying ‘This is my beloved Son, in whom I take delight.’

*St Matthew 3: 17*

**HYMN 189**      Be still, for the presence of the Lord      *(Be Still)*

**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 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
worship the Lord in holy splendour.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

**<sup>4</sup> The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**<sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

**<sup>8</sup> The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
**and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'**

<sup>10</sup> The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
**the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.**

<sup>11</sup> May the Lord give strength to his people!  
**May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

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 42: 1 – 9

GOSPEL

St Matthew 3: 13 – 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 598      Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire      *(St Columba)*

SERMON

HYMN 336      Christ is our light      *(Highland Cathedral)*

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 615      Holy Spirit, ever living      *(Abbot's Leigh)*

THE BENEDICTION      *ends with sung Amen*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY      *Voluntary in A Minor by Maurice Green*

**Welcome** to the Harry Younger Hall, the temporary home of Canongate Kirk during the redecoration of the sanctuary which is now underway. 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 on the table at the back of the hall. If you would like to receive it by e-mail, please get in touch with the office. We have also transferred the box for postage stamps and the basket for foodbank donations to the hall in the meantime. The monthly service at Croft an Righ, Abbeyhill, takes place this afternoon at 4pm. Members of the congregation are more than welcome to attend and stay for a chat afterwards.

**Craft Club** The first meeting of 2026 for our Craft Club will be TOMORROW Monday, 12th January from 6.30pm – 8pm in the Harry Younger Hall. All welcome – crafters and non-crafters alike!

**Christmas Appeal** This year we raised £1,722.60 for Sunflower Scotland, an Edinburgh based charity supporting children and families badly affected by the war in Ukraine. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this excellent total.

**Free Will Offering Envelopes** These are now available. 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** Normal service will continue as much as possible while we meet in the Harry Younger Hall. 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. There is also a new cleaning rota for the Hall as we do not currently have a caretaker – this requires two people to give approximately an hour of their time towards the end of every week.

**Monthly Evening Service** Advance notice that this will take place in St Giles Cathedral on Sunday **25<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm**. Please note change of time.

### **Stewards Needed for General Assembly**

Are you interested in volunteering as a steward at the 2026 Church of Scotland General Assembly taking place at the Assembly Hall from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. If so please contact Chief Steward Neil Proven at [assemblystewards@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:assemblystewards@churchofscotland.org.uk) for more information.

<b>St Giles' at Six - FREE concert tonight:</b> Piano Recital, Marianne Hansen & Maureen van IJzerloo. <a href="http://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events">www.stgilescathedral.org.uk /events</a>
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