

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

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**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
Conversion of Paul  
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.

As God called you, live up to your calling.

*Ephesians 4: 1*



OPENING VOLUNTARY     *Prelude from Partita No 1 BWV 825 by J.S. Bach*

OPENING SENTENCE

HYMN 510                      Jesus calls us hear to meet him                      *(Lewis Folk Melody)*

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 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us

**and make his face to shine upon us,**

<sup>2</sup> that your way may be known upon earth,

**your saving power among all nations.**

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;

**let all the peoples praise you.**

<sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

**for you judge the peoples with equity**

**and guide the nations upon earth.**

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;

**let all the peoples praise you.**

<sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase;

**God, our God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup> May God continue to bless us;

**let all the ends of the earth revere him.**

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.**

NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 9: 1 – 19

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 718      We cannot measure how you heal      (*Ye Banks and Braes*)

#### SERMON

HYMN      We sing the glorious conquest      (*Ellacombe/247*)  
before Damascus' gate,  
when Saul, the Church's spoiler,  
came breathing threats and hate;  
the ravening wolf rushed forward  
full early to the prey;  
but lo! the Shepherd met him,  
and bound him fast today!

O glory most excelling  
that smote across his path!  
O light that pierced and blinded  
the zealot in his wrath!  
O voice that spake within him  
the calm, reproofing word!  
O love that sought and held him  
the bondman of his Lord!

O Wisdom, ordering all things  
in order strong and sweet,  
what nobler spoil was ever  
cast at the victor's feet?  
What wiser master-builder  
e'er wrought at thine employ  
than he, till now so furious  
thy building to destroy?

Lord, teach thy Church the lesson,  
still in her darkest hour  
of weakness and of danger,  
to trust thy hidden power:  
thy grace by ways mysterious  
the wrath of man can bind,  
and in thy boldest foeman  
thy chosen saint can find!

## 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.**

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... 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.**

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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.**

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**Gracious God  
we give you glory, thanks and praise  
for the dying and undying love of our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
In your great goodness  
you have brought us into communion with him  
and with all who love him,  
and made us heirs of your everlasting kingdom.  
By your grace, may we continue in this holy fellowship,  
and live to the glory of your name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN 748      Through saints we glimpse the light of Christ      (*Wareham*)

THE BENEDICTION      ends with sung **Amen**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY      *Fugue in F minor* by G F Handel

**Welcome** to the Harry Younger Hall, the temporary home of Canongate Kirk while the church is being redecorated. 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. Those preferring individual glasses should sit on the west side of the hall, i.e. nearest the door, and those who prefer common cup on the other side of the aisle. 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.

**Monthly Evening Service** This will take place TODAY in St Giles Cathedral at 7.30pm. Please note change of time.

**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.

**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.

**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.

<p><b>St Giles' at Six - FREE concert tonight:</b> Edinburgh Kevoch Choir <a href="http://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events">www.stgilescathedral.org.uk /events</a></p>
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