

**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 26th July 2026

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Revd Charles Robertson LVO (1940 – 2026)

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.

My one desire is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection.

Philippians 3: 10

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Concerto No 12 in B flat major. A tempo ordinario*
by G F Handel

OPENING SENTENCE

HYMN 645 I'm not ashamed to own my Lord *(Jackson)*

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 105: 1 – 11

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

² **Sing to him, sing praises to him;**
tell of all his wonderful works.

³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

⁴ **Seek the Lord and his strength;**
seek his presence continually.

⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered,

⁶ **O offspring of his servant Abraham,**
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

⁷ He is the Lord our God;
his judgements are in all the earth.

⁸ **He is mindful of his covenant for ever,**
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

⁹ the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,

¹⁰ **which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,**
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

¹¹ saying, ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance.’

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

Romans 8: 31 – 39

GOSPEL

St Matthew 13: 31 – 33, 44 – 52

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 1 How blest are those who do not stray

(St Botolph)

REFLECTION

HYMN 739 The Church’s one foundation

(Aurelia)

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 419 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son *(Maccabeus)*

THE BENEDICTION ends with sung **Amen**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Allegro, ma non presto Op 4 no 2* by G F Handel

Welcome to Canongate Kirk! 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 June 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.

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 note there will be **no evening service** tonight as our organist Simon Leach is giving the 'St Giles at 6' concert this evening. Members of the congregation are encouraged to attend this recital in the Cathedral.

Sunday 16th August Our regular morning service at 10.30am will incorporate an element of thanksgiving for the redecoration project. Do come if you can!

Sunday Offering The Kirk Session has agreed with the Finance Committee's recommendation that we should no longer take up an offering as part of the service. This is for the good reason that most people support the church financially in other more direct ways, for which we are very grateful. There is now a plate in the foyer beside the contactless machine where cash donations may still be placed before or after the service. An offering bag will still be brought forward during the service as we sing 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow.'

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. The Open Kirk board has also gone back up to encourage volunteers at weekends.

With the return of most of our Regimental Colours and Standards our redecoration project is almost complete. The last of them will be re-installed soon. Thanks to a generous benefactor, we have also taken the opportunity to install a new audio-visual system – adjustments still need to be made 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. Please also note that 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 into the kirkyard unless you really need to.

Open Kirk The Royal Mile is packed with tourists again and our student interns are now welcoming visitors to the Kirk Monday to Friday. However, we are looking for volunteers for Open Kirk on Saturdays and Sunday afternoons. Open Kirk is a valuable source of revenue for the church and if you would like to take a turn please sign up on the board in the foyer or contact Lesley Wallace on lesley.wallace@blueyonder.co.uk

Stamps and Food Please continue to bring any used stamps along to church and put them in the box at the back of the church. And don't forget the basket for food bank donations in the foyer.

St Giles' at Six TONIGHT - Simon Leach will be giving the St Giles at Six recital. The programme includes the world premiere of *Nemo Me Impune Lacessit* by Helen Leach, J S Bach's *Fugue in D minor BWV 539*, John Casken's *Sacrificium* and Franz Liszt's *Fantasie* and *Fugue Ad nos, ad salutarem undam*. ***Free entry with optional donation.***

