

**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 5th July 2026

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Harold Nicolson (1948 – 2026)

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude in D minor BWV 539 by J S Bach

OPENING SENTENCE

Serve one another in love.

Galatians 5: 13

HYMN 130 Ye servants of God

(Laudate Dominum)

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 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

**² My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

**³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.**

**⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**⁵ The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.**

**⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

**⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.**

**⁸ The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.**

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 35: 1 – 2, 5 – 7

GOSPEL

St Matthew 11: 1 – 6

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 352 O for a thousand tongues to sing *(Richmond)*

SERMON

HYMN 730 From the falter of breath *(Iona Boat Song)*

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

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 743 Behold what witnesses unseen *(Wetherby)*

THE BENEDICTION *ends with sung* Amen

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Fugue in D minor BWV 539* by J S Bach

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 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. **Next Sunday** our morning service will incorporate the Sacrament of Baptism.

Craft Club Next month's meeting of the Craft Club will be on Monday 13th July from 6.30pm – 8pm in the Harry Younger Hall. New members are most welcome - the group is open to crafters and non-crafters, skilled and non-skilled alike.

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.

Summer Concerts

6 th July	2.30pm	Seattle Children's Chorus	FREE
26 th July	6pm	Simon Leach at St Giles at Six	FREE

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.

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.'

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 - FREE concert: Exeter University Chapel Choir *Free entry with optional donation. Register on Eventbrite.*