

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

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**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Passion Sunday**

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Sarabande in A major* by Bach

OPENING SENTENCE Our God is a God who saves; to the Lord God belongs all escape from death.

*Psalm 68: 20*

HYMN 129 The Lord is King! Lift up your voice! *(Church Triumphant)*

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 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup> Lord, hear my voice!

**Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!**

<sup>3</sup> If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> **But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;

<sup>6</sup> **my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.

<sup>8</sup> **It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.**

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: 6 – 11

GOSPEL

St John 11: 17 – 27

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 380**      There is a green hill far away      *(Horsley)*

**SERMON**

**HYMN 392**      When I survey the wondrous cross      *(Rockingham)*

**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 154**      O Lord my God!      *(How Great Thou Art)*

**THE BENEDICTION**      *ends with sung* **Amen**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**      *Allegro in D minor* by Stanley

**Welcome** to the Harry Younger Hall, the temporary home of Canongate Kirk while the church is being redecorated. 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. We are also uploading to our website photographs of the redecoration of the kirk as work progresses. The latest edition of our monthly newsletter is available on the website and paper copies can be found on the table in the foyer. If you would like to receive it by e-mail, please get in touch with the office. We have transferred the basket for foodbank donations to the hall in the meantime. Thanks again to everyone who contributed to our recent Coffee Morning, which raised over £2,100.

**Next Sunday** is Palm Sunday. Please note there will be NO Holy Communion at our 10.30am service, partly as we will need to be out of the hall in good time before members of the Royal Regiment of Scotland Association arrive for a separate service at noon. They will march down the Royal Mile behind an Army band so we should hear them coming! Our usual monthly evening service will NOT take place either – instead, members of both congregations are encouraged to attend a free concert of Passiontide music to be given by the Cathedral Choir in St Giles' at 6pm. Don't forget the clocks go forward an hour next weekend.

**April** After one or two unforeseen delays in the redecoration project, we are now expecting to be back in Canongate Kirk for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. With this in mind there will be NO services here on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday but members of our congregation will be most welcome to attend Holy Week services in St Giles' Cathedral. We shall hold two services in the Hall on Easter Day, 5<sup>th</sup> April, firstly a family service at 9am and our regular morning service at 10.30am.

**Stamps** We have found a company who will recycle used stamps with the money coming directly to the Kirk so please continue to bring any used stamps along to church and put them in the box at the back of the hall. We would just ask that you trim the stamps leaving a margin of about a quarter of an inch (0.6cms) around them. The first 10kg sack is ready to go and another one is nearly full. They also recycle other items – have a look at the poster for details.

**Sunday Rotas** Normal service will continue as much as possible while we continue to 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 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.

**St Giles' at Six - FREE concert tonight:** George Heriot Chamber Choir. A wonderful selection of choral classics, including music by Stanford, Parry, Einaudi and Debussy. Directed by Judith Buttars. For more information visit <https://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/whatson>