CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
AND EDINBURGH CASTLE

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Sunday 15th November 2026
2nd Sunday before Advent

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Rondeau* from *Abdelazer* by Purcell

OPENING SENTENCE How long, Lord, will you hide yourself from sight? Remember how fleeting is our life!

Psalm 89: 46 – 47

HYMN 127 O worship the King, all glorious above *(Hanover)*

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 123

To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
[2] As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he has mercy upon us.

[3] Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
[4] Our soul has had more than its fill
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.

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 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11

GOSPEL St Matthew 25: 14 – 30

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 543 Longing for light, we wait in darkness *(Christ be our Light)*

SERMON

HYMN 502 Take my life, Lord, let it be (*Nottingham)*

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 348 Praise the One who breaks the darkness *(519/Hyfrydol)*

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Toccata* by Dubois

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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. Our service this morning is conducted by Elspeth McPheat DCS while the Minister is in Cardiff for an interment of ashes. 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 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.
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Next Sunday our morning service will incorporate both the Sacrament of Baptism and the Kirking of the High Constables and Guard of Honour of Holyroodhouse.

Kirk Session The Kirk Session next meets on Monday 23rd November at **6.30pm** in the Harry Younger Hall.

Christmas Choir In anticipation of our service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday 20th December, our home-grown choir will meet for its first rehearsal at 9.30am on Sunday, 29th November, the first Sunday of Advent. Please come if you can, previous experience not necessary!

Community Ceilidh All are invited to a St Andrewstide Community Ceilidh jointly hosted by St Giles' Cathedral and Canongate Kirk on Friday 27th November from 6.30pm – 10.30pm at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, Royal Mile. Tickets at £20 (free for accompanied under-18s) include a welcome drink and haggis supper. The event is not BYOB as the bar will be open all evening. Booking early is recommended as this is sure to be a very popular event! Tickets available on Eventbrite https://bit.ly/47K9pnN

Christmas Supper Our annual Christmas Supper will take place in the Harry Younger Hall on Thursday 10th December at 6.45pm. Tickets priced £15 are available today. Looking further ahead , on Tuesday 26th January the award-winning Scottish singer Robyn Stapleton will lead a celebration of Robert Burns in Canongate Kirk. Not to be missed!

Washbags for Crisis at Christmas We have once again been asked to help supply washbags to Crisis, the local charity for the homeless. These can be brought to church or handed in at the church office up to and including Sunday 20th December. Crisis say that washbags should contain no alcohol (including wipes, mouthwash etc.) or glass containers. No medications/painkillers either please. For hygiene reasons they ask that everything is new and unopened. Razors/nail cutters etc. which previously were not allowed are fine now. A suggested list of items includes shower-gel, soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, flannel and anything else you would usually find in a washbag.

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.

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 - Music Scholars from St George's school present a wide and varied programme of music.
Free entry with optional donation. Register on Eventbrite.

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