

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

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Sunday 23rd November 2025

Sunday before Advent

Christ the King

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Jesu Joy of Mans Desiring by J S Bach

OPENING SENTENCE From you, Bethlehem, will come a king for me, one whose origins are far back in the past. He will rise up and lead Israel in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord.

Micah 5: 2, 4

HYMN 59 Oh, come, and let us to the Lord

(Irish)

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 46

God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ 'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

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

Jeremiah 23: 1 – 6

GOSPEL

St Luke 23: 33 – 43

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 498 Angel voices, ever singing *(Angel Voices)*

SERMON

HYMN 129 The Lord is king! *(Church Triumphant)*

**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 511 Your hand, O God, has guided

(Thornbury)

THE BENEDICTION

*ends with sung **Amen***

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Ciaccona in e minor by Buxtehude

Today's Fundraising Piano Recital

by

Becca Ye



Impromptu No.3 in G flat major

Schubert

Un Sospiro

Liszt

Pathetique Sonata Second Movement

Beethoven

Ballade No.1 in G Minor

Chopin

Fantasie-impromptu in C sharp minor op 66

Chopin

Becca Ye is a 14-year-old student and music scholar at the Mary Erskine School. She has been offered a place at St Mary's Music School and will begin to study organ, piano and violin there from January 2026. She started her organ lessons at age 10 with Simon Leach, our organist. Becca has performed as a soloist on piano, organ and violin and plays in various ensembles and orchestras. She has been a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland for four years and was the leader of NYOS Development in 2025. She has achieved distinctions in ARSM Diploma for both organ and piano, also distinction in Grade 8 violin.

Welcome to Canongate Kirk. This morning 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 taking a short break. 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.

Fundraising Recital Immediately after the service today there will be a short piano recital by Becca Ye in aid of our redecoration project - see the previous page for her programme. The recital will last around 30 minutes. Donations can be left in the brass plate by the church door. Please stay if you can.

Kirk Session The next meeting is **tomorrow**, Monday 24th November, at 6pm in the Harry Younger Hall. The Kirkyard gates will be left open for parking. If anyone would like their name to be added to the membership roll, please have a word with the Session Clerk.

Next Sunday our morning service will incorporate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, followed later that day with our monthly united Evening Service with St Giles' here at 7pm, our final one for this year. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome.

Christmas Choir Our annual service of Lessons and Carols takes place on Sunday 21st December. With this in mind our usual 'home-grown' choir is invited to gather round the piano for rehearsals at 9.30am every Sunday from now on. First timers welcome! Please come if you can, previous experience not necessary.

Christmas Cards Previous editions are now on sale in the foyer of the Kirk at the bargain price of £2 per pack of 10, either size. We have also received a generous donation of a number of new Heritage type cards which are individually priced at £3 each for the small size and £4 for the larger. Please put money in the donations box – all sales will go towards Kirk funds.

Future Fundraising Events On Friday 12th December at 6pm the Pipes and Drums of the Scots Guards are holding an event called *Talent Among Heroes*. Admission is free with retiring collection for our redecoration project. Then on Tuesday 16th December our congregational Christmas Supper will take place in the Harry Younger Hall at 6.45pm. As this year's supper is also a fund raising event towards re-decoration of the church in 2026, tickets are at the slightly increased price of £20. Available today.

St Andrew's Day Service The Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem will be holding their annual service at 2pm on Friday 28th November in St Cuthbert's Parish Church, 5 Lothian Road. The guest preacher will be former Moderator The Very Revd Shaw Paterson. All welcome.

Scottish Parliament On Wednesday 17th December the Scottish Parliament will be holding its annual carol service. The evening will consist of traditional Christmas carols and readings and include contributions from Members of the Scottish Parliament and community groups and will take place in the Parliament from 6.15pm to approximately 7.30pm. Festive cheer will also be provided in the form of traditional Christmas fare, including mulled wine/fruit juice and mince pies served in the Main Hall following the service. Ten places have been reserved for members of the congregation. Please add your name and contact details to the form at the back of the church if you would like to attend.

Free Will Offering Envelopes These will be available shortly. 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.

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. We remain open to visitors at weekends so there is also a rota in the foyer for volunteers to sign up for Open Kirk on wedding-free Saturdays (mornings and afternoons) and Sunday afternoons. Please help if you can. There are still a lot of visitors and tourists on the Royal Mile!

St Giles' at Six - FREE concert tonight: Vivaldi Gloria for Women's Voices www.stgilescathedral.org.uk /events
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