CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
AND EDINBURGH CASTLE

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Organist: Mr Simon Leach FISM GMusRNCM

Sunday 29th November 2026

First Sunday of Advent

Sacrament of Holy Communion

St Andrew

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.

Awake sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine upon you.

Ephesians 5: 14

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* by J S Bach

OPENING SENTENCE

HYMN 277 Hark the glad sound! *(Crediton)*

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 80: 1 – 7, 17 – 19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,
2 shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
6 You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
18 Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

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 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9

GOSPEL St Mark 13: 24 – 37

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 509 Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult *(St Andrew)*

ADDRESS

HYMN 666 Let all mortal flesh keep silence *(Picardy)*

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.

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.

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.

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… 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.

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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.

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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 472 Come, thou long expected Jesus *(Stuttgart)*

THE BENEDICTION ends with sung **Amen**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* by J S Bach

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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. 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.

As usual on this last Sunday of the month our service incorporates the **Sacrament of Holy Communion,** with bread and wine brought to the congregation by Elders. When you take a strip of bread from the plate, please break a piece off and pass the rest along the pew. As far as wine is concerned, please note that small 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.

Our regular monthly united **Evening Service** with St Giles' takes place here at 7pm tonight. All welcome. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery.
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Daily Advent reflections with Brian Draper At its recent meeting the Kirk Session endorsed a suggestion that members of the congregation might like to sign up to a series of daily reflections through the season of Advent, to take a little time each day to pause and reflect. From 1st – 24th December, Christian author and speaker Brian Draper will send a short daily email reflection to subscribers. Canongate Kirk has made a group donation, so signing up is free. The starting point for this year's series is *The Kindling*. Everyone is welcome to take part. Visit https://www.briandraper.org/advent-2026

Christmas Craft Fair Many thanks to everyone who organised and supported our recent event, which raised over £1400 for church funds.

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

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 or via the church office.

Scottish Parliament Christmas Service On Wednesday 16th 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.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

Members of the congregation would be welcome to attend any of the following charity carol services here in Canongate Kirk:

Wednesday 2nd December	**6pm**	Tri Service Charities (ABF)
Monday 7th December	**7pm**	Order of St John
Sunday 13th December	**4pm**	Royal British Legion Scotland
Wednesday 16th December	**6pm**	CRISIS – local charity for the homeless

CONCERTS IN DECEMBER

Sat 5th December 5pm	Calton Consort	*Carols by Candlelight*	£15/12
Fri 18th December 7.30pm	Ensemble R6	*Sibelius 2*	£15/7.50
Sat 19th December 7.30pm	St Andrew Camerata	*O Magnum Mysterium*	£15/12

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.

Parking We have had complaints about members of the congregation parking without due consideration for local residents in Lochend Close. Please note that Old Tolbooth Wynd is now available for parking once again and that cars may be parked on the single yellow line on the Canongate until 12.30pm on Sundays.

Palace Exhibition Time is running out to visit the current exhibition at the King's Gallery, Holyroodhouse: The Edwardians – Age of Elegance, exploring the opulence and glamour of the Edwardian age through the lives and tastes of two of Britain's most fashionable royal couples – King Edward VII & Queen Alexandra, and King George V & Queen Mary. Until 6th December 2026.

St Giles' at Six TONIGHT - Rudsambee Singers return to St Giles' Cathedral to present a programme of music for Advent. *Free entry with optional donation. Register on Eventbrite.*

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Army Benevolent Fund



Christmas Carol Service

6pm - 7pm | Wednesday 2nd December 2026

Canongate Kirk, Royal Mile, Edinburgh, EH8 8BN: Tri-service charities' carol service to kick start Advent; giving thanks for the generosity and kindness of all of our amazing supporters.

ALL are welcome!

Members of the public, veterans, serving members both regular and reserve and families - please come along and enjoy the festivities.

FREE ENTRY

No tickets required.

A retiring collection in aid of all three service charities; supporting our Navy, Army and Airforce personnel and their families, for life.

Tri-Service Charities:

ROYAL NAVY & ROYAL MARINES CHARITY | ABF

Reverend Neil Gardner LVO MA BD DL – Minister.

Our Tri-Service Charities' Christmas Carol Service will be supported by Fettes Prep School Choir.

Scan to find out more about ABF Scotland.

For Soldiers. For Life.

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR | Cobseo The Confederation of Service Charities | VS Veterans Scotland

Army Benevolent Fund is a registered charity in England and Wales (1146420) and Scotland (SC039189) and registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (07974609).