

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

www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Email:canongatekirk@btinternet.com

Tel: 0131 556 3515

Minister: The Revd Neil Gardner LVO MA BD DL

Organist: Mr Simon Leach FISM GMusRNCM



Sunday 16th November 2025

Margaret, Queen and Saint of Scotland

Kirking of the High Constables

&

Guard of Honour of Holyroodhouse

OPENING VOLUNTARY	<i>The Black Rood of Scotland</i> by Helen Leach
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OPENING SENTENCE Obey your orders without fault or failure until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ which God will bring about in his own good time.
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<i>1 Timothy 6: 14 – 15</i>

HYMN 489	Come down, O Love Divine	<i>(Down Ampney)</i>
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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 98

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.

**His right hand and his holy arm
have gained him victory.**

² The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

**All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.**

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy

⁹ **at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

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

2 Thessalonians 3: 6 – 13

GOSPEL

St Luke 21: 5 – 13

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 540 I heard the voice of Jesus say *(The Rowan Tree)*

SERMON

HYMN 748 Through saints we glimpse the light of Christ *(Wareham)*

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 500 Lord of creation, to you be all praise *(Slane)*

THE BENEDICTION *ends with sung Amen*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Fugue in C major BWV 547 by J S Bach*

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, which today incorporates the Kirking of the High Constables and Guard of Honour of Holyroodhouse. We are glad to have them and their families with us this morning. 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. To mark St Margaret's Day we have been lent a beautiful icon of St Margaret - part of a contemporary set - currently on tour in Scotland, and painted on wood from ammo boxes used by Ukrainian troops. It's well worth a closer look!

Christmas Choir In anticipation of our service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday 21st December, there will be an initial meeting/rehearsal next Sunday, 23rd November, at 9.30am. Please come if you can, previous experience not necessary!

Fundraising Recital Next Sunday, 23rd November, there will be a piano recital by Becca Ye shortly after the morning service. Becca 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. She has achieved distinctions in ARSM Diploma for both organ and piano, also distinction in grade 8 violin. She's passionate about Romantic-era music, which will be reflected in her programme. The recital will last around 30 minutes. Please come if you can.

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.

Kirk Session next meets on Monday 24th November at 6pm in the HYH.

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. The guest preacher will be The Very Revd Shaw Paterson. All welcome.

Sunday Rotas Please sign up to help if you can with tea/coffee after the service, reading lessons, arranging flowers, Open Kirk weekend duties or being part of a Sunday morning welcome team.

St Giles' at Six - FREE concert tonight: Edinburgh Academy www.stgilescathedral.org.uk /events
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