

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

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**Sunday 30th November 2025
1st Sunday of Advent**

St Andrew

Sacrament of Holy Communion

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.

Stand upright and hold your heads high, because your liberation is near.

St Luke 21: 28

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme by J.S. Bach

OPENING SENTENCE

HYMN 277 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes

(Credito)

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 122

I was glad when they said to me,

‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’

² **Our feet are standing**

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem—built as a city

that is bound firmly together.

⁴ **To it the tribes go up,**

the tribes of the Lord,

as was decreed for Israel,

to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

⁵ **For there the thrones for judgement were set up,**

the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

‘May they prosper who love you.

⁷ **Peace be within your walls,**

and security within your towers.’

⁸ For the sake of my relatives and friends

I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’

⁹ **For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,**

I will seek your good.

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 13: 11 – 14

GOSPEL

St Matthew 4: 12 – 22

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)

SERMON

HYMN 473 'Thy kingdom come!' – on bended knee

(Irish)

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.**

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.

... 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.**

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.

**Gracious God
we give you glory, thanks and praise
for the dying and undying love of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
In your great goodness
you have brought us into communion with him
and with all who love him,
and made us heirs of your everlasting kingdom.
By your grace, may we continue in this holy fellowship,
and live to the glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN 535 **Who would true valour see** *(Monks Gate)*

THE BENEDICTION ends with sung **Amen**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *O Clavis David* by C. McDowall

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. Today we welcome John Duffy to the organ bench while Simon is away. As usual on this last Sunday of the month our service incorporates the **Sacrament of Holy Communion**. The bread is gluten free and the wine port with a touch of water. Please note that 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. 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 December/January edition of our monthly newsletter is now 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.

Evening Service Our monthly united service with St Giles' will take place TONIGHT at 7pm here in Canongate Kirk. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome. Please note that the next evening service will take place in St Giles' Cathedral on Sunday 25th January 2026 at the slightly later time of 7.30pm.

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 Following the success of last Sunday's piano recital, 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.

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.

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 21st December. Last year they were able to support nearly 600 people over Christmas, including providing over 300 packs of gifts and essentials to people experiencing homelessness. 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 and 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. According to the Crisis team, our donations last year were wonderful, the best yet!

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 Songbirds at Advent: Glorious choral music for Advent including Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols and some Scottish favourites. https://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events
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