

**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**



**Remembrance Sunday
9th November 2025**



God is our refuge and our stronghold, a timely help in trouble; so we are not afraid though the earth shakes.

Psalm 46: 1 – 2

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him, still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the high eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him;
dwellers all in time and space:
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYERS *including*

All **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.

HYMN 161 vv.1 – 3

(St Anne)

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God
to endless years the same.

CALL TO REMEMBRANCE

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.

We will remember them

LAST POST

LAMENT

SILENCE

REVEILLE

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

FIRST READING

Psalm 139: 1 – 12

SECOND READING

Hebrews 4: 14 – 5: 4

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

All 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.

INTIMATIONS

HYMN 96

(Highland Cathedral)

You are before me, God, you are behind,
and over me you have spread out your hand;
such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too high to grasp, too great to understand.

Then from your spirit where, God, shall I go,
and from your presence where, God, shall I fly?
If I ascend to heaven you are there,
and still are with me, if in hell I lie.

If I should take my flight into the dawn,
if I should dwell on ocean's farthest shore,
your mighty hand will rest upon me still,
and your right hand will guard me evermore.

If I should say, 'Let darkness cover me,
and I shall hide within the veil of night',
surely the darkness is not dark to you,
the night is as the day, the darkness light.

Search me, O God, search me and know my heart,
try me, O God, my mind and spirit try;
keep me from any path that gives you pain,
and lead me in the everlasting way.

SERMON

HYMN

(Melita)

O Ruler of the earth and sky
Be with our airmen when they fly;
And keep them in Thy loving care
Amid the perils of the air.
O let our cry come unto Thee
For those who fly o'er land and sea.

Strong son of man, save those who fly
Swift-winged across the unchartered sky;
Each anxious hour and lonely flight
Serenely challenged, day and night.
O'er land and ocean safely bear
All those in peril in the air.

O Holy Spirit, God's own power,
Give peace in sudden danger's hour
Bring calm of heart and be Thou near
To those who watch and those who fear.
To Thee will rise the grateful prayer
Of those who serve Thee in the air.

O Trinity of love and grace,
True guide of all who fly through space;
In peace or war, mid friend or foe,
Be with them whereso'er they go.
So shall our praise with heaven blend
And joyful hearts to Thee ascend.

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.

PRAYERS

end with *The Lord's Prayer*

HYMN 702

(*Blaenwern*)

Lord, in love and perfect wisdom
times and seasons you arrange,
working out your changeless purpose
in a world of ceaseless change;
you have formed our ancient nation,
guiding it through all the days,
to unfold in it your purpose
to your glory and your praise.

To our shores remote, benighted,
barrier of the western waves,
tidings in your love you sent us,
tidings of the cross that saves.
Saints and heroes strove and suffered
here your gospel to proclaim;
we, the heirs of their endeavour,
tell the honour of their name.

You maintain your ageless purpose
every change and chance above;
still your holy Church is bearing
witness to your changeless love.
Grant us vision, Lord, and courage
to fulfil your work begun;
in the Church and in the nation,
King of kings, your will be done.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Spitfire Prelude by William Walton

Welcome to Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh's military church, on Remembrance Sunday. We extend an especially warm welcome to representatives of the Armed Forces, Regular and Reserve, and military veterans. We are glad to be joined by members of 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron, RAuxAF in their centenary year, and by friends in 142 (Second Edinburgh) Squadron Air Cadets. In leading our Act of Remembrance, we are grateful for the support of our piper, Cpl Ryan Steel 2 SCOTS, and our bugler, Cpl Neshum Tamang 1 RGR, who come to us via the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming based at Colinton. As in previous years there will be a retiring offering in aid of Poppy Scotland. After the service there will be a short wreath-laying ceremony at the Parish War Memorial on the Canongate Tolbooth next door. A livestreamed video of this service will be available on our website www.canongatekirk.org.uk - feel free to share the link with others who might be interested. The November edition of our newsletter is available at the back of the church and on-line. The regular monthly service at Croft an Righ, Abbeyhill, takes place at 4pm this afternoon. Members of the congregation are more than welcome to attend and stay for a chat afterwards. All welcome. Next Sunday we will be joined at our 10.30am service by the High Constables and Guard of Honour of Holyroodhouse for their annual 'Kirking'.

BBC Radio Scotland You might like to know that the Minister led the weekly 'New Every Sunday' broadcasts at 7am last Sunday and this morning. Still available on the BBC Sounds website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b05ps1jk>

Fundraising Recital On 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. 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. 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.

Fundraising Christmas Supper This annual not-to-be-missed event will take place on Tuesday 16th December in the Harry Younger Hall at 6.45pm. As this year's supper is a fund raising event towards re-decoration of the church in 2026, tickets are at the slightly increased price of £20. Available today.

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!

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.

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!

CANONGATE CONCERTS IN DECEMBER

Saturday 6th December	5pm	Calton Consort	£15/12
Friday 12th December	6pm	<i>Talent Among Heroes</i> - Pipes & Drums of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards	
		<i>Admission Free with Retiring Collection for Canongate Kirk Redecoration</i>	
Saturday 20th December	7.30pm	St Andrew Camerata	£12/10

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

You might like advance notice of the fact that members of the congregation would be welcome to attend any of the following charity carol services:

Thursday 4th December	6pm	Armed Forces Carol Service
Wednesday 10th December	6pm	Crisis Homeless Charity Carol Service
Thursday 11th December	5pm	Order of St John Carol Service
Sunday 14th December	4pm	Royal British Legion Carol Service

St Giles at Six Weekly free concert **tonight:** Waverley Ensemble. Music by Haydn and Mozart. <https://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events>