

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

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Sunday 4th January 2026

Epiphany of the Lord

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Fugue in C minor* by Jean Jacques Charpentier

OPENING SENTENCE Where is the new-born king of the Jews? We observed the rising of his star, and have come to pay him homage.

St Matthew 2:2

HYMN 326 As with gladness men of old *(Dix)*

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 72: 1 – 7, 10 – 14

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

**³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.**

**⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

**⁵ May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.**

**⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

**⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.**

**¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

**¹² For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**

**¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.**

**¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

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

Isaiah 60: 1 – 6

GOSPEL

St Matthew 2: 1 – 12

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 325 Bethlehem, a noble city *(Stuttgart)*

SERMON

HYMN 327 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning *(Epiphany/240)*

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 153 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father *(Faithfulness)*

THE BENEDICTION *ends with sung Amen*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Nöel en Duo by Jean Jacques Charpentier*

Welcome to the Harry Younger Hall, the temporary home of Canongate Kirk for the next three months! 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 on the table at the back of the hall. If you would like to receive it by e-mail, please get in touch with the office. We have also transferred the box for postage stamps and the basket for foodbank donations to the hall in the meantime

Christmas Appeal This year we raised £1,722.60 for Sunflower Scotland, an Edinburgh based charity supporting children and families badly affected by the war in Ukraine. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this excellent total.

Free Will Offering Envelopes These are now available. 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 Normal service will continue as much as possible while we meet in the Harry Younger Hall.. 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.

Stewards Needed for General Assembly

Are you interested in volunteering as a steward at the 2026 Church of Scotland General Assembly taking place at the Assembly Hall from Friday 15th May to Monday 18th May. If so please contact Chief Steward Neil Proven at assemblystewards@churchofscotland.org.uk for more information.

<p>St Giles' at Six - FREE concert tonight:. Organ Recital, James Gough www.stgilescathedral.org.uk /events</p>
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