

**CANONGATE KIRK
THE KIRK OF HOLYROODHOUSE
AND EDINBURGH CASTLE**
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Minister: The Revd Neil Gardner LVO MA BD DL
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Sunday 18th January 2026
Second Sunday after Epiphany

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Fugue in F major by G F Handel

OPENING SENTENCE God has caused his light to shine in our hearts, the light which is knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4: 6

HYMN 489 Come down, O love Divine

(Down Ampney)

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 40: 1 – 4, 9 – 11

I waited patiently for the Lord;

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

² He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,

and set my feet upon a rock,

making my steps secure.

³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

⁴ Happy are those who make the Lord their trust,

who do not turn to the proud,

to those who go astray after false gods.

⁹ I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;

see, I have not restrained my lips,

as you know, O Lord.

¹⁰ I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;

I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness

from the great congregation.

¹¹ Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me;

let your steadfast love and your faithfulness

keep me safe for ever.

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 49: 1 - 3

GOSPEL

St John 1: 43 – 51

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 600 Spirit of God, unseen as the wind *(Skye Boat Song)*

SERMON

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

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 154 O Lord my God! *(How Great Thou Art)*

THE BENEDICTION *ends with sung Amen*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Postludium by Flor Peeters*

Welcome to the Harry Younger Hall, the temporary home of Canongate Kirk while the church is being redecorated. 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. Next Sunday our morning service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

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. There is also a new cleaning rota for the Hall as we do not currently have a caretaker – this requires two people to give approximately an hour of their time towards the end of every week.

Monthly Evening Service This will take place in St Giles Cathedral next Sunday, 25th January, at 7.30pm. Please note change of time.

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.

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.

St Giles' at Six - FREE concert tonight: Richard Scholfield & Ronas String Quartet [www.stgilescathedral.org.uk /events](http://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events)