

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

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**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Mothering Sunday**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*Prelude in A major by J S Bach*

**OPENING SENTENCE** Send out your light and your truth to be my guide; let them lead me to your holy hill, to your dwelling-place.

*Psalm 43: 3*

**HYMN 181** For the beauty of the earth

*(Lucerna Laudoniae)*

**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 34: 11 – 20

Come, O children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

**12 Which of you desires life,  
and covets many days to enjoy good?**

**13** Keep your tongue from evil,  
and your lips from speaking deceit.

**14 Depart from evil, and do good;  
seek peace, and pursue it.**

**15** The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their cry.

**16 The face of the Lord is against evildoers,  
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**

**17** When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,  
and rescues them from all their troubles.

**18 The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,  
and saves the crushed in spirit.**

**19** Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the Lord rescues them from them all.

**20 He keeps all their bones;  
not one of them will be broken.**

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

Exodus 2: 1 – 10

NEW TESTAMENT

Colossians 3: 12 – 17

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 598**      **Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire**      *(St Columba)*

**REFLECTION**

**HYMN 465**      **Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart**      *(Slane)*

**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 182**      **Now thank we all our God**      *(Nun Danket)*

**THE BENEDICTION**

*ends with sung Amen*

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

*Fugue in F major by Handel*

**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](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk) - feel free to share the link. We are also uploading to our website photographs of the redecoration of the kirk as work progresses. The latest edition of our monthly newsletter is available on the website and paper copies can be found on the table in the foyer. If you would like to receive it by e-mail, please get in touch with the office. We have transferred the basket for foodbank donations to the hall in the meantime.

**Annual Congregational Meeting** A short meeting to note our accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 will be held immediately after the service today. Copies of the accounts are available at the back of the hall.

**Stamps** We have found a company who will recycle used stamps with the money coming directly to the Kirk so please continue to bring any used stamps along to church and put them in the box at the back of the hall. We would just ask that you trim the stamps leaving a margin of about a quarter of an inch (0.6cms) around them. The first 10kg sack is ready to go and another one is nearly full. They also recycle other items – have a look at the poster for details.

**Sunday Offerings** Now that we are being charged to deposit cash into the bank, we encourage all members of the congregation who do not currently give via bank transfer to consider using our convenient contactless giving machine, Payaz. This will also enable us to claim Gift Aid where applicable. Full details are only required the first time you use the machine, making future donations quick and simple. Alternatively, you can continue to use the white envelopes, which enable us to claim Gift Aid and increase the value of your donation at no extra cost to you. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

**Sunday Rotas** Normal service will continue as much as possible while we continue to 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 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.

**St Giles' at Six - FREE concert tonight:** Pentland Singers. Directed by Ian Munro, the Pentland Singers present a diverse programme of choral music, ranging from Mozart's Lacrimosa to Coleman's The Rhythm of Life. <https://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/whatson>