

**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



Sunday 29th March 2026

Palm Sunday

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Andante C P E Bach

OPENING SENTENCE We proclaim Christ nailed to the cross. He is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians: 23 – 24

BLESSING OF THE PALM CROSSES

HYMN 364 All glory, laud, and honour

(St Theodulph)

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 118: 1 – 2, 19 – 29

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

² Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

**²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

**²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

**²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

²⁷ The Lord is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

**²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.**

²⁹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures 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.

EPISTLE

Philippians 2: 5 – 11

GOSPEL

St Matthew 21: 1 – 11

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 367 Hosanna, loud hosanna *(Ellacombe)*

SERMON

HYMN 378 Praise to the Holiest in the height *(Gerontius)*

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 365 Ride on! ride on in majesty!

(Winchester New)

THE BENEDICTION

ends with sung **Amen**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Allegro by C P E Bach

Welcome to the Harry Younger Hall, the temporary home of Canongate Kirk while the church is being redecorated. Our service this morning is conducted by Elspeth McPheat DCS while the Minister is recuperating from his hip operation. Please note there will be no Holy Communion today and our usual monthly evening service will not take place either – instead, members of both congregations are encouraged to attend a free concert of Passiontide music to be given by the Cathedral Choir in St Giles' at 6pm. See below for details. A livestreamed video of today's service is available on our website 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 let us know.

April After one or two unforeseen delays in the redecoration project, we are now expecting to be back in Canongate Kirk for Sunday 26th April. With this in mind there will be NO services here on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday but members of our congregation will be most welcome to attend Holy Week services in St Giles' Cathedral where there will be a half hour service with words and music each evening at 7pm from Monday 30th March to Thursday 2nd April. At St Giles' on Good Friday, 3rd April, there will be services at 12pm and 7pm. Back at Canongate, we shall hold two services in the Hall on Easter Day, 5th April, firstly a family service at 9am and our regular morning service at 10.30am.

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 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: Passiontide Concert. St Giles' Cathedral Choir perform Fauré's Requiem, with an intimate accompaniment arranged by David Hill for organ, violin, cello and harp. The choir also sings Poulenc's *Quatre Motets pour un temps de pénitence*. With Master of the Music - Jack Oades. Tickets are free but need to be booked via Eventbrite <https://bit.ly/40YT8b9>