

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

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**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026  
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**Holy Cross**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*Adagio by Albinoni*

**OPENING SENTENCE**      Bless the Lord, my soul. He pardons all my  
wrongdoing and crowns me with love and compassion.

*Psalms 103: 1, 3 – 4*

**HYMN 70**

**Give praise and thanks unto the Lord**

*(Dunfermline)*

**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 22: 23 – 28

You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;

**stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

<sup>24</sup> For he did not despise or abhor

the affliction of the afflicted;

**he did not hide his face from me,**

**but heard when I cried to him.**

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

**my vows I will pay before those who fear him.**

<sup>26</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live for ever!

<sup>27</sup> **All the ends of the earth shall remember**

**and turn to the Lord;**

and all the families of the nations

shall worship before him.

<sup>28</sup> **For dominion belongs to the Lord,**

**and he rules over the nations.**

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 John 3: 13 – 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 392**      When I survey the wondrous cross      *(Rockingham)*

**SERMON**

**HYMN 405**      We sing the praise of him who died      *(Walton)*

**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**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 458**      At the name of Jesus      *(Cuddesdon)*

**THE BENEDICTION**      *ends with sung Amen*

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**      *Carillon de Westminster by Vierne*

**Welcome to Canongate Kirk!** We extend a special welcome to all visitors - please join us in the foyer for tea and coffee after the service. Stuart Ramsay is taking part in today's service – currently our Session Clerk, Stuart is due to begin his studies as a candidate for Ministry in the Church of Scotland very soon, and we wish him well as he begins this exciting new chapter. 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. The latest edition of our monthly newsletter is available on the website and paper copies can be found at the back of the church. If you would like to receive it by e-mail, please get in touch with the office. The monthly service at Croft an Righ, Abbeyhill, takes place today at 4pm. Members of the congregation are more than welcome to attend and stay for a chat afterwards. **Next Sunday**, 20<sup>th</sup> September, is Battle of Britain Sunday and we will welcome friends from the Scottish Branch of the RAF Regiment Association to our 10.30am service. Please note that the Royal Mile will be closed to traffic all morning due to the 10K Charity Run.

**BBC Radio 4 Extra** The Minister was asked to lead the Daily Service on BBC Radio 4 Extra on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August. The broadcast, marking the end of the Edinburgh International Festival for another year, is still available on BBC Sounds.

**The Riding of the Marches** takes place this afternoon. It is free to watch and all are welcome - the horses will be making their way up the Royal Mile to muster by the Mercat Cross opposite the City Chambers, usually around 4pm. The road will be closed from 1.30pm onwards. For more information visit:

<https://edinburghridingofthemarches.com/home/spectator-viewing-points/>

**Open Kirk** Our weekday opening has now finished but over the Summer we have welcomed more than 20,000 visitors to the church. Thanks to Roselle, Francesca and all our volunteers who have kept the church open over the past weeks. Although the number of tourists and visitors to the Royal Mile has reduced, weekends can still be busy and if members and friends of the congregation can take a turn to make them welcome on Saturday mornings and afternoons as well as Sunday afternoons, that would be much appreciated. Volunteers can sign up on the board in the foyer.

**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.

**Stamps and Food** Please continue to bring any used stamps along to church and put them in the box at the back of the church. And don't forget the basket for food bank donations in the foyer.

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| <p><b>St Giles' at Six TONIGHT</b> - Lullabies and love songs by Vaughan Williams, Gurney, Faure, Hahn, Wagner, Burns and MacMillan with Barbara Jones and Ailsa Aitkenhead. <i>Free entry with optional donation. Register on Eventbrite.</i></p> |
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