

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

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**Sunday 20th September 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Battle of Britain Sunday



OPENING VOLUNTARY

Spitfire Prelude by William Walton

OPENING SENTENCE

**To the Lord belong the earth and everything in it,
the world and all its inhabitants.**

Psalm 24: 1

HYMN 160

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

(Praise, my soul)

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 105: 1 – 5, 42 – 45

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

² Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.

⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered.

⁴² **For he remembered his holy promise,
and Abraham, his servant.**

⁴³ So he brought his people out with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.

⁴⁴ **He gave them the lands of the nations,**
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,

⁴⁵ **that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.**

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 1: 21 – 30

GOSPEL

St Matthew 20: 1 – 16

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 485 Dear Lord and Father of mankind

(Repton)

SERMON

HYMN 535 Who would true valour see

(Monks Gate)

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 511 Thy hand, O God, has guided

(Thornbury)

THE BENEDICTION

ends with sung Amen

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Crown Imperial by William Walton

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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. Today we mark Battle of Britain Sunday and extend a special welcome to friends from the Scottish branch of the RAF Regiment Association as well as those associated with 603 Sqn, with which we have such a strong local connection. Please be aware we have an induction loop system for the benefit of those who use hearing aids. A livestreamed video of today's service is available on our website www.canongatekirk.org.uk - feel free to share the link. The September 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.

This Sunday afternoon Robert Fergusson, who lies buried in our Kirkyard, will be the focus of a special event from 3pm – 5pm at Portobello Town Hall—*Fergusson's Auld Reekie* - to celebrate the poet's life and times. Fergusson's poetry will be read by Billy Kay and music and song of 18th Century Edinburgh will be performed by Steve Byrne, Sarah Hoy, Jim Malcolm and Gary West. Tickets and information from <https://bit.ly/4xbBX3W>

Next Sunday morning and evening Our morning service on 27th September will incorporate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, followed later that day with our monthly united Evening Service with St Giles' here at 7pm. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome.

Kirk Session Next meets at **6.30pm** on Monday 28th September in the Harry Younger Hall. Please note change of time to facilitate car parking. If anyone would like the Kirk Session to add their name to our membership roll, please speak to the Minister or Session Clerk.

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

St Giles' at Six TONIGHT - A concert by young flautist Agatha Ludkin-Finnie, recent winner of the Ayrshire Festival. *Free entry with optional donation. Register on Eventbrite.*