

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

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Sunday 25th October 2026

Last Sunday after Trinity

Sacrament of Holy Communion

We have come together as the family of God
in our Father's presence
to offer him praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive his holy word,
to bring before him the needs of the world,
to ask his forgiveness of our sins,
and to seek his grace,
that through his Son Jesus Christ
we may give ourselves to his service.

The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

St John 1: 17

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude in E flat major by J S Bach

OPENING SENTENCE

HYMN 608 Spirit of truth and grace

(Down Ampney)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO PRAYER

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

PRAYERS including

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you,

and worthily magnify your holy name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

ABSOLUTION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

ANTIPHONAL PSALM 90: 1 – 6, 13 – 17

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place
in all generations.

² **Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

³ You turn us back to dust,
and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.'

⁴ **For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.**

⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶ **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.**

¹³ Turn, O Lord! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!

¹⁴ **Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

¹⁶ **Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.**

¹⁷ Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—

O prosper the work of our hands!

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

1 Thessalonians 2: 1 – 8

GOSPEL

St Matthew 22: 34 – 46

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 552 Oh, for a closer walk with God (*The Flower o' the Quern*)

REFLECTION

HYMN 658 Lord we have come at your own invitation (*Epiphany*)

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.**

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYERS including:

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... therefore, with your people of all places and times, and with the whole company of heaven, we proclaim your greatness and sing your praise in the angels' song:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory:
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off you met us in your Son
and brought us home.**

**Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.**

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your
children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN 500 Lord of creation, to you be all praise! *(Slane)*

THE BENEDICTION ends with sung **Amen**
CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Fugue in E flat major by J S Bach*

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. 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 at the back of the church. If you would like to receive it by e-mail, please get in touch with the office.

A new carpet has been fitted as the final part of our redecoration project. It's not quite complete yet but already a great improvement on what we had before. Grateful thanks to those who have generously contributed to this additional cost – further donations are always welcome! We have taken this chance to install a new loop system underneath the carpet – modern hearing aids should tune automatically to get the benefit of it, but it might work better either side of the central aisle.

As usual on this last Sunday of the month our service incorporates the **Sacrament of Holy Communion**, with bread and wine brought to the congregation by Elders. When you take a strip of bread from the plate, please break a piece off and pass the rest along the pew. As far as wine is concerned, please note that small individual glasses will be available in the King David Aisle only, at the far right hand side of the church. Those sitting in the nave, either side of the central aisle, will be served with a common cup. Please choose your pew according to whether you prefer common cup or individual glass.

Our regular monthly united **Evening Service** with St Giles' takes place here at 7pm tonight. All welcome. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. Tonight the address will be given by Rev Sigrid Marten, who will shortly leave her post as Associate Minister at St Giles' Cathedral to become the Parish Minister of Uist and Barra in the Western Isles.

Evening Talk and Reception In a return to our previous pattern of occasional talks, Mark Peel will present "Donald Dewar: A Man out of Time" at 7pm on Thursday 29th October in the Harry Younger Hall. The first Minister at Holyrood is the enigmatic subject of Mark's latest biography. An invitation has been extended through our parish grouping to folks from St Giles', and also to the Scottish Parliamentary community. All welcome.

Next Sunday 1st November is All Saints Day and our morning service will incorporate the Sacrament of Baptism.

Festival of Flowers In support of the Tour de 4 Cycle Event set up by Sir Chris Hoy, Blackhall St Columba's Church, Columba Road, EH4 3QU is holding a festival of flowers with live music, craft displays and refreshments. The event runs for three days on Friday 30th and Saturday 31st October, 10am – 6pm, and Sunday 1st November, 2pm – 5pm. Free admission and all welcome.

Donations in aid of Prostate Cancer UK, Breast Cancer Now, Maggie's, Cure Leukaemia and Macmillan Cancer Support. For more information contact flowerfestival26@outlook.com

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 is in place all year round.

St Giles' at Six TONIGHT Veronica Henderson (cello) and Elizabeth Mucha (piano) perform music by MacCunn, McEwen, Geraldine Mucha, Isobel Dunlop, and Neil Mackay's "Scena" bringing together works by composers who, while all connected with Scotland, followed very individual paths through life. <i>Free entry with optional donation. Register on Eventbrite.</i>
