

**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 23rd March 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

Muster, March and Remember

The Royal Regiment of Scotland



Those who look to the Lord will win new strength, they will soar as on eagles' wings; they will run and not feel faint, march on and not grow weary.

Isaiah 40: 31



OUR HISTORY

The Royal Regiment of Scotland (SCOTS) is the senior line infantry regiment of the British Army.

The Royal Regiment of Scotland was initially made up of six regular and two Army reserve battalions on amalgamation of six proud historical Scottish Infantry Regiments. In August 2006 two of the regular battalions were merged and in 2012 one of the regular battalions was reduced to a company strength with sole responsibility for Scotland's State Ceremonial and Public Duties. In December 2021 our 1st Battalion was selected to become the 1st Battalion of the new Ranger Regiment. We continue to provide SCOTS soldiers and officers to support its specialist role in the Army Special Operations Brigade.

Today the Regiment is made up of three regular battalions, one regular incremental company and two Army reserve battalions. The Regimental Headquarters is located in Edinburgh Castle, and SCOTS regular and reserve battalions are based across Scotland and Northern England. The Regiment is structured, equipped and trained for operations in the 21st Century.

It draws particular strength and extraordinary cohesion from the uniquely glorious history of its antecedent Regiments. The Regiment is one of the key custodians of Scottish martial history and remains fiercely proud of its heritage; each Battalion carries forward the history, traditions and fighting spirit of its forebears with uncompromising pride, courage and passion. Scotland has a tradition of producing courageous, resilient, tenacious and tough infantry soldiers, and their reputation throughout the Army and within the community continues to be second to none.

OPENING SENTENCE

HYMN

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound!
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

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

63: 1 – 8

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**²So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.**

**³Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.**

**⁴So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

⁵ My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
⁶ **when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**
⁷ for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
⁸ **My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.**

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

Joshua 3: 1 – 8

NEW TESTAMENT

St Mark 1: 9 – 13

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

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.*

You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.*

Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength,
following Christ each day.

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love*

SERMON

HYMN

There is a green hill far away,
outside a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell
what pains he had to bear;
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heaven,
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

OFFERING

Shall we gather at the river?

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 *concluding with*

The Regimental Collect

**God of our fathers, whose hand shapes the coastlands and hills of home,
fashion likewise our lives. Guard the Royal Regiment of Scotland; keep us
brave in battle, resolute in adversity, loyal to comrade and Crown; that
inspired by the faith and cross of Saint Andrew, we might secure lasting peace
and eternal rest; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine in the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

HYMN

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till my want is o'er,
feed me till my want is o'er.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside!
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side!
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

THE BENEDICTION

ends with sung Amen

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Sunday 13 th April Palm Sunday	10.30am	Morning Service & Baptism
Thursday 17 th April Maundy Thursday	7pm	Holy Communion
Friday 18 th April Good Friday	7pm	Evening Service
Sunday 20 th April Easter Day	10.30am	Morning Service & Baptism

Welcome to Canongate Kirk. This morning we extend a special welcome to all visitors - please join us in the foyer for tea and coffee after the service. Today we are particularly glad to welcome to their Regimental Kirk members of the Royal Regiment of Scotland Association joining us as part of their Muster, March and Remember reunion weekend, and the Lowland Reserve Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland under the direction of Captain Alex Knox. 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 March 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.

Lent Study Group continues today, meeting in the King David Aisle at 11.30am and finishing before 12.30pm, when parking restrictions on the Royal Mile kick in. We are following a book produced by the Church of Scotland entitled "Living Generously". Offering what is described as a "whole-life response to God's love", the book incorporates a series of articles, case studies and discussion prompts as we travel towards Easter and its reminder of God's own generous and unconditional love for the world in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. All welcome.

Parliamentary Service We are hosting the annual Scottish Parliamentary Service at 12.30pm on Wednesday 26th March. The service will be led by the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly and the preacher will be the Moderator. Members of the congregation are more than welcome to attend, and as part of our Parish Grouping an invitation has also been extended to members of St Giles'.

Next Sunday is Mothering Sunday and the official start of British Summer Time, so the clocks will go **forward one hour**. Our morning service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion and our monthly united evening service with St Giles' will take place here at 7pm. As usual a quartet of singers from the Cathedral choir will be in the gallery. All welcome.

Canongate Kirk Concert

Saturday 29th March 7.30pm Open Orchestra *Spring Concert* Free Entry

St Giles at Six - FREE concert tonight: School of Social and Political Science Choir, Edinburgh University. Piano: Ailsa Aitkenhead. Director: Kirstin Anderson [www.stgilescathedral.org.uk /events](http://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events)