

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

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**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent**

**Kirking of the High Constables**

**&**

**Guard of Honour of Holyroodhouse**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*Canzona in G major* by Buxtehude

**OPENING SENTENCE** Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith, and to possess the kingdom he has promised to those who love him?  
*James 2:5*

**HYMN 120** God, we praise you. God, we bless you.

*(Ode to Joy)*

**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**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> **I will praise the Lord as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> **When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever;**

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

**The Lord sets the prisoners free;**

<sup>8</sup> **the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> **The Lord watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

<sup>10</sup> The Lord will reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

**Praise the Lord!**

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

Ruth 1: 1 – 18

GOSPEL

St Matthew 2: 13 – 15, 19 – 23

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 55**      **Safe in the shadow of the Lord**      *(Creator God)*

**SERMON**

**HYMN 268**      **O God of Bethel! by whose hand**      *(Salzburg)*

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

**THE BENEDICTION**

*ends with sung Amen*

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

*Toccata by Dubois*

**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, which today incorporates the Kirking of the High Constables and Guard of Honour of Holyroodhouse. We are glad to have them and their families with us today. 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](http://www.canongatekirk.org.uk) - feel free to share the link. The November 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.

**Canongate Kirk Christmas Supper** Tickets for our congregational festive gathering for supper and carols on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6.45pm in the Harry Younger Hall are now available from David Croft at £12 each. All welcome!

**Remembrance Sunday** Next Sunday our service starts slightly later than usual at 10.45am. But as usual it will be supported by a piper and bugler from the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming, there will be a retiring offering in aid of Poppy Scotland and a short wreath-laying ceremony by the War Memorial afterwards. Poppies are available today at the back of the church.

**St Margaret's Day** A special service is to be held in Canongate Kirk at 11.30am on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, St Margaret's Day. Supported by the St Margaret's Singers and shared with representatives of the Scottish Episcopal Church and of the Roman Catholic Church, it will reinforce our connections with St Margaret's Chapel Guild and the tiny chapel that bears her name in the upper reaches of our parish. All welcome.

**Season of Reflection and Renewal** Last year this ran from Harvest to Remembrance and gave members and friends an opportunity to identify ways in which they could help with the smooth running of Canongate Kirk Sunday by Sunday, and at other times too. If you're new to the congregation, or feeling more confident about volunteering this year, copies of the original form can be found once again at the back of the King David Aisle - feel free to fill one in and leave it in the box and we'll get back to you!

**New Book on Holyroodhouse** *The Palace of Holyroodhouse – A House of Many Memories* is a brand new publication by former Holyroodhouse senior curator Deborah Clarke. Drawing on new research and richly illustrated with historical drawings, photos and watercolours, this is the first official history of the palace ever published and has been many years in the making. More information and a link to order at <https://bit.ly/4fLpCev>

**St Giles at Six - FREE concert** Colin Andrews, organ recital  
[www.stgilescathedral.org.uk /events](http://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events)