

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

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Sunday 6th April 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude in B minor BWV 544 by J S Bach

OPENING SENTENCE Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

St Matthew 16: 26

HYMN 553 Just as I am, without one plea

(Saffron Walden)

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 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion:
we were like those who dream.

**² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

then it was said among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'

**³ The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.**

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

**⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.**

⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
**shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

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 3: 4b – 14

GOSPEL

St John 12: 1 – 8

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.

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. Please be aware we have an induction loop system for the benefit of those who use hearing aids. Our service this morning is conducted by Elspeth McPheat DCS while the Minister is in London preaching at a Scots Guards Remembrance Service in the Guards' Chapel. A livestreamed video of today's service is available on our website www.canongatekirk.org.uk - feel free to share the link. The April edition of our monthly newsletter is now 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. By the way, one of the hymns recorded at Canongate Kirk in 2022 is being aired today on Songs of Praise at 1.15pm on BBC1.

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". All welcome.

Next Sunday, Palm Sunday, the service will incorporate the Sacrament of Baptism. We will also welcome back friends from the Royal Naval Association and the Royal Yacht Association who will parade standards as part of the service.

Craft Club The Craft Club is moving its monthly slot from the second Wednesday of each month to the second Monday as this may be a more convenient time for newcomers. The next date will be Monday 14th April from 6pm – 8.30pm in the Harry Younger Hall. Everyone is welcome, crafters and non-crafters alike!

Open Kirk at Easter We are hoping to be open to visitors and tourists once again over the Easter weekend. Please sign up on the noticeboard in the foyer if you can take a turn between 11am and 1.30pm or 1.30pm and 4pm from Thursday 17th April to Monday 21st April.

Sunday Rotas Please sign up to help if you can with tea and coffee after the service, reading lessons or being part of a Sunday welcome team.

Canongate Kirk Spring Concerts

Saturday 12 th April	7.30pm	Linton Singers <i>Stabat Mater</i>	£15
Thursday 24 th April	6.30pm	Ebenezer Choir from Faroe Islands	FREE

Friday 2 nd May	6.30pm	Yehudi Menuhin School	£15/£7.50
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Our annual treat from some incredibly talented young musicians from Surrey – not to be missed! All proceeds to Kirk funds.

St Giles at Six - FREE concert tonight: Edinburgh Competition Festival
[www.stgilescathedral.org.uk /events](http://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/events)