

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

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Sunday 13th October 2024

250th Anniversary of the death of Robert Fergusson



Robert Fergusson (1750 – 1774)

Painted in 1772 by Alexander Runciman (1736 – 1785)

OPENING VOLUNTARY *3rd Movement Trio Sonata in E^b major by J S Bach*

OPENING SENTENCE If we belong to Christ, it is all God's doing: it is God also who has set his seal upon us, and given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 1: 21 – 22

HYMN 498 Angel voices ever singing

(Angel Voices)

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

130

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

² **Lord, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

⁴ **But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.**

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

⁶ **my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.**

⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord!

**For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.**

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 2: 5 – 11

GOSPEL

St Matthew 13: 1 – 9

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 540 I heard the voice of Jesus say *(Rowan Tree)*

SERMON

HYMN 497 Almighty Father of all things that be *(Chilton Foliat)*

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 436 Christ triumphant, ever reigning *(Guiting Power)*

THE BENEDICTION *ends with sung Amen*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Fugue in G minor Op 7 No 3 by Marcel Dupré*

Our opening and closing voluntaries today are played by Simon's youngest pupil, Becca, who travels to New York next week to study Bach at the Julliard Music School with the Grammy winning organist Paul Jacobs.

Welcome to Canongate Kirk. Today we mark the 250th anniversary of the death of Robert Fergusson, who lies buried in our kirkyard. After the service, members of the congregation are encouraged to gather by his grave, for a very short commemoration. 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. A livestreamed video of today's service is available on our website www.canongatekirk.org.uk - feel free to share the link. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to last Sunday's Harvest Thanksgiving. The foodbank was delighted to receive so many practical donations as well as £500 transferred to their account.

'Remembering Robert Fergusson' is a special event organised by the Scottish Poetry Library to include poetry readings, music and discussions about Fergusson's impact on Scottish literature with special guests Scottish writer and broadcaster Billy Kay, authors Andrew O'Hagan and James Robertson, musician Kirsteen McCue and Professor Rhona Brown. Rhona leads on the University of Glasgow project 'The Works of Robert Fergusson: Reconstructing Textual and Cultural Legacies.' The event will take place at St Cecilia's Hall at 7pm on Thursday 17th October 2024. Tickets at <https://bit.ly/3X3zSH2>

Christian Aid One-Day Sale A special fundraising event is to be held in Edinburgh's New Town Church in George Street (formerly St Andrew's & St George's West) from 10am - 4pm on Saturday 19th October. Items for sale will include books and pictures, ephemera and maps, games and jigsaws and CDs. There will also be a coffee morning, lunch and afternoon tea to help raise funds for Christian Aid. Further details on a leaflet at the back of our church.

Concert A concert will be given by Bedford Modern School at 4.30pm next Sunday, 20th October. Admission free.

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! As a result of last year's season of reflection and renewal there are rotas in place for volunteers to sign up to help with Sunday duties – if you'd like to be part of the welcoming face of Canongate Kirk, giving out hymn books and orders of service and taking up the collection etc, please sign up against any particular Sunday. There's a rota for those who would like to read lessons too. Not to mention the rotas to help with tea and coffee after the service, to arrange flowers in advance, and to support Open Kirk's remit of welcoming visitors and tourists at weekends. There are lots of opportunities to work with and get to know other members of the family of our congregation – don't be shy!