



The Parish Church of St Cuthbert

Dr Hazel Hastie MSc CQSW PhD AIWS *Interim Moderator*

The Revd Suzie Stark BD(Min) *Locum Minister*

Mr Graham Maclagan BMus PGDE CertTh *Director of Music*

The Ascension of our Lord The Seventh Sunday of Easter Sunday 17 May 2026

A warm welcome to worship.

Today we mark the **Ascension of our Lord**, which was celebrated on Thursday past.
The liturgical colours for this period of celebration are **white** and **gold**.

Hymns are unannounced and sung standing unless otherwise indicated. The text of the **Psalms** can either be found in this Order of Service, or in the hymnbook at the hymn number indicated. The **Creed** and the **Lord's Prayer** can also be found in the hymnbook at the numbers indicated in this Order of Service.

Bible Readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version. Please ask if you would like a copy. The Old and New Testaments are numbered separately.

Congregational responses are printed in **bold**. The congregation is encouraged to join in the saying of '**Amen**' at the end of prayers.

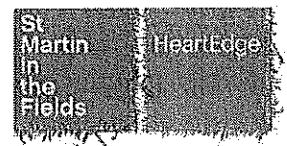
Please join us after the service in the Lammermuir Hall for tea and coffee.

Please note this service is being filmed and broadcast live on the church's website and YouTube channel. If you do not wish to be seen, please make your wishes known.



The Church of Scotland

www.stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk



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APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT

Where high the heavenly temple stands,
the house of God not made with hands,
a great High Priest our nature wears,
Jesus, the Son of God, appears.

Though now ascended up on high,
he bends on earth a brother's eye;
partaker of the human name,
he knows the frailty of our frame.

With boldness, therefore, at the throne,
let us make all our sorrows known;
and ask the aid of heavenly power
to help us in the evil hour.

Scottish Paraphrase 58, 1781, altered, Hebrews 4: 14-16
Music: German melody, 15th Century,
adapted by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus is able to save to the uttermost
those who draw near to God through him,
since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7: 25

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

439 Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious

CALL TO PRAYER

please remain standing

PRAYERS OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

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

please be seated

ABSOLUTION

COLLECT FOR
THE ASCENSION
OF OUR LORD

**Almighty God,
your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ
ascended far above all heavens
that he might fill all things.
Grant that your Church on earth
may be filled with his presence
and that he may remain with us always,
to the end of the world;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you
and also with you.

HYMN

441 Blessing and honour and glory and power

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 1: 1-11

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1: 15-23

PSALM 47

**All nations, clap your hands and shout!
Let joyful cries to God ring out!
How awesome is the Lord Most High,
Great King who rules the earth throughout!**

Tune at
Hymn 470

**God has gone up with shouts of joy,
the Lord amid the trumpets' sound.
Sing praise, sing praise to God Most High;
to God our King let praise abound.**

**For God is King of all the earth;
sing psalms of praise to him alone.
God rules the nations from on high;
he sits upon his holy throne.**

**The leaders of the nations come
to yield themselves to Abr'ham's God.
To him belong the shields of earth;
exalted greatly is the Lord!**

**To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom earth and heaven adore,
be glory as it was of old,
is now, and shall be evermore. Amen.**

'Sing Psalms', The Free Church of Scotland, 2003,
Psalm 47: 1-2, 5-9

THE GOSPEL

St Luke 24: 44-53

ALLELUIA

**Alleluia, Alleluia,
Jesus, risen Lord of life!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Church Hymnary, Fourth Edition, Hymn 428 (refrain)
Music: Bernadette Farrell (b.1957)
descant by Graham MacLagan

THE SERMON

The Revd Suzie Stark

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

The Lord ascendeth up on high,
loud anthems round him swelling;
the Lord hath triumphed gloriously,
in power and might excelling:
hell and the grave are captive led,
Lo, he returns, our glorious Head,
to his eternal dwelling.

The heavens with joy receive their Lord,
O day of exultation!
By saints, by angel hosts adored
for his so great salvation:
O earth, adore thy glorious King,
his rising, his ascension sing
with grateful adoration!

By saints in earth and saint in heaven,
with songs forever blended,
all praise to Christ our King be given,
who hath to heaven ascended:
to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God of heaven's resplendent host,
in bright array extended.

Text: Arthur Russell (1806-1874) and others
Music: Melody from *Christliche Lieder*, Wittenberg (1524),
with harmonies of J.S. Bach (1685-1750), adapted
arranged by Alan Bullard (b.1947)

THE APOSTLES' CREED *the text can be found at Hymn 628*

HYMN **438 The head that once was crowned with thorns**

PRAYERS OF
INTERCESSION *One of the following responses may be used:*
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**
Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

THE OFFERING *is collected, and received during the singing of:*

DOXOLOGY **Now to him who loved us, gave us** Hymn 816
every pledge that love could give,
freely shed his blood to save us,
gave his life that we might live,
be the kingdom,
power and glory
and thanksgiving evermore.

SURSUM CORDA 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.

PRAYERS OF
THANKSGIVING and
THE LORD'S PRAYER

the text can be found at Hymn 652, second form (b)

DISMISSAL HYMN

459 Crown him with many crowns

DISMISSAL and BLESSING

Eastertide Alleluia Amen

Music: Graham Maclagan

ORGAN RECESSIONAL

Hymn Prelude on 'Regent's Square'

Betty Roe (b.1930)



The Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Edinburgh
17th May 2026

Weekly Intimations

Prayerful Practice

This General Assembly Weekend, we pray for our new Moderator Rev Gordon Kennedy and for all those Commissioners involved in making decisions for the future of our Church. We give thanks for the work of staff and committees who work all year round for our benefit.

Union Update

The congregational vote for the proposed Union with Greyfriars Kirk is scheduled to take place immediately after the 1030am service on Sunday 31st of May. All members will receive information about this through the post, shortly. Any queries please contact Christine at sessionclerk@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk or contact the office

Sunday 7th June, 11.30am: Stated Annual Meeting

Copies of the annual accounts for 2025 are available to view in the Lammermuir Hall, in advance of the Stated Annual Meeting, which will take place after the 1030am service on 7th June.

Thursday 28th May, 11am: Funeral for Irene Mackenzie

All are invited to pay their respects at the funeral for Irene Mackenzie later this month.

Tuesday 19th May - Thursday 21st May, 10am-4pm: Art Exhibition

There will be an exhibition of paintings by Edinburgh Artist Angela Brown in the Lammermuir Hall from the 12th of May to the 21st of May.

Friday 22nd May, 7.30pm: Helen Hopekirk Festival - Concert

The Helen Hopekirk Festival presents Gary Steigerwalt & Dana Muller: "A Life in Two Parts: Folk and Classical Inspiration on Both Sides of the Pond". This is a showcase of the Music of Helen Hopekirk. Tickets cost £14, and are available from

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/helenhopekirkfestival/2131555>

Tuesday Coffee Morning, 10.30am – noon

Pop along for a coffee and a chat in the Lindisfarne Room.

Saturday 23rd May, 10am-6pm: Helen Hopekirk Competition for Young Pianists and Organists

The Helen Hopekirk Organ Festival will be holding their competition for Young Pianists and Organists in St Cuthbert's this year. Tickets for the event are free, and can be found here -

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/helenhopekirkfestival/2162090>

Friday 29th May, 7.30pm: KammerPhilharmonie Freiburg Concert

There will be a free concert of orchestral music on Friday 29th March. All are welcome.

Saturday Coffee Mornings

30 th May	10am-1pm
27 th June	11am-2pm
25 th July	11am-2pm

St Cuthbert's Bible Fellowship Group

Bible Fellowship Group meet every Thursday evening until the end of June from 7.30pm via Zoom. All are welcome to join this time of fellowship and Bible reflections. Our subject for this summer term are "The Appearances of the Risen Jesus" and "The Characters of the Acts of the Apostles." Zoom details from martin.pearce2109@outlook.com

FreshStart

FreshStart are very grateful for all our donations of household items and non-perishable food. Please continue to place your donations in "The Big White Box" in the vestibule. If you are unable to deliver them, please telephone Jim McLean on **0131 332 5114** and leave a message with your name, phone number and that the call is about FreshStart, or email jamesangusmclean@gmail.com

Prayer Circle

Prayer requests should be made to **Irene Gill** on **226 2727**. For longer term prayer, please add names to the purple book in the vestibule. If you could be part of the Prayer Circle and spend time praying for others, please contact Irene.

Toppings An Evening with... events

Thursday 11th June, 7pm: Kate Williams, *Regina: A New History of Women and Power*