GREYFRIARS ST CUTHBERT'S

Sunday Service at St Cuthbert's

The Revd Dr George Whyte *Interim Moderator*
Mr Graham Maclagan *Director of Music*

The Second Sunday before Advent

Sunday 15 November 2026

A warm welcome to Greyfriars St Cuthbert's.

Today is the **Second Sunday before Advent**. The period between All Saints' Day and the First Sunday of Advent is known as 'Kingdom-tide', a time of celebration and reflection on the reign of Christ in earth and heaven. The liturgical colour for this period is **red**.

This morning, we welcome back the **Revd David Rodriguez**, Assistant Minister at St Giles' Cathedral, to lead our worship.

Hymns are unannounced and sung standing unless otherwise indicated. Please ask one of the Duty Elders if there is not a hymnbook (purple Church Hymnary) near your seat.

The text of the **Psalm** can be found in this Order of Service. The **Alleluia**, the **Creed** and the **Lord's Prayer** can be found in the hymnbook at the numbers indicated.

Bible Readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version. Please ask one of the Duty Elders if you would like a copy.

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

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

All our services are available for viewing at any time on our YouTube channel. If you do not wish to be seen on the broadcast, please make your wishes known.

The Church of Scotland

Edinburgh: Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number SC003761
www.greyfriarskirk.com
www.stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk

APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT

My God, accept my heart this day,
and make it always thine,
that I from thee no more may stray,
no more from thee decline.

Anoint me with thy heavenly grace,
and seal me for thine own;
that I may see thy glorious face,
and worship near thy throne.

Church Hymnary, Third Edition, Hymn 429: 1, 3
Text: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)
Music: 'St James', from *Select Psalms and Hymns*, 1697,
probably by Raphael Courteville, (*c.*1677-1772)

OPENING SENTENCES

How long, O Lord, will you hide yourself from sight?
Remember how fleeting is our life!

Psalm 89: 46-47

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

154 O Lord my God! when I In awesome wonder

CALL TO PRAYER

please remain standing

PRAYERS OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

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

please be seated

COLLECT OF THE DAY

**Almighty God,
you sent your Son Jesus Christ
to be the light of the world.
Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us,
and bring us to eternal light and joy;
through the power of him
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE PEACE	The peace of the Lord be with you **and also with you.**	
HYMN	**578 Christ, whose glory fills the skies**	Second Tune

THE WORD OF GOD

OLD TESTAMENT	Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18	
EPISTLE	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11	
PSALM 90	**Lord, you have always been our home** **through every generation known;** **before the hills or earth were made** **you are the eternal God alone.**	Hymn 54 First Tune

From dust we came, to dust return,
for in your clear eternal sight
a thousand years pass as a day
or as a few hours in the night.

Our lives like grass spring from the ground
and flourish in the morning sun;
then evening comes, and brightness fades
and we and all our strength are done.

Teach us to value life's brief span,
and let our minds be truly wise.
'How long, O Lord, till you return?'
In mercy hear your servants' cries.

At each day's dawning, make us glad;
fill us with your love all our days;
and we will sing aloud for joy
and offer you our lifelong praise.

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

The Scottish Psalter, 1929, Psalm 90: 1-6, 12-14,
The Compilers of Church Hymnary, Fourth Edition

THE GOSPEL — St Matthew 25: 14-30

ALLELUIA — *the music can be found at* **Hymn 752**

THE SERMON — The Revd David Rodriguez

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

Church Hymnary, Fourth Edition, Hymn 538
Text from a Book of Hours, Sarum, 1514
Music: Philip Wilby (b.1949)

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

HYMN — **643 For me to live is Christ**

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

All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessèd, send us your salvation;
yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding
through all creation.

Hymn 209: 3

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 — **465 Be thou my Vision**

DISMISSAL and BLESSING — Threefold Amen
Music: Danish

ORGAN RECESSIONAL — Dialogue sur les grands jeux *from* Suite du Premier Ton — L.-N. Clérambault (1676-1749)

Greyfriars St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh
Notices for St Cuthbert's Church
15th November 2026

Weekly Intimations

Prayerful Practice

This week we pray for what it means to live in God's time rather than our own, to inhabit the in-between time between promise and fulfilment, and to recognise that human dignity comes from God rather than from productivity, wealth, or status.

Congregational Email from the Session Clerk Team

The Session Clerk Team has been sending out weekly emails to keep the congregation up to date with news from Greyfriars St Cuthberts, including but not limited to updates about the Nominations Procedure, and news about upcoming services. We have been using the new emails provided for the congregational roll back in July. If you have not received these emails, please let the church office know, and we will ensure that your details are up to date on the Roll.

Sunday 22nd November 2026

Next week, our Interim Moderator and Locum Minister Rev Dr George Whyte will be leading our Worship for the Feast of Christ the King.

Thursday 19th November, 7pm: OASIS Quiz for FreshStart

We will be holding our Annual OASIS Quiz on 19th November this year. Doors will open at 7, with the quiz to start at 7.30pm. There will be soup and bread available, and you are welcome to bring a bottle of wine to share with your team. Teams are limited to 5, with a suggested donation of £10 per team. All money raised will go to FreshStart. Please register teams with the church office at office@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk, in order that we can ensure numbers for catering.

Sunday 22nd November, 7.30pm – Scottish Sinfonia, Bruch Violin Concerto

One of the best loved of all works for violin, the concerto by Max Bruch is the centrepiece of our November programme, in which we are delighted to welcome Ruth Rogers as our soloist. Ruth is Leader and Director of The London Mozart Players. There will also be works by Brahms, Delius and Dyson.

Sunday 13th December 2026: Christmas Gift Service

The Christmas Gift Service will be held on Sunday 13th December at 10.30am. The gifts will be given to the Wester Hailes Learning Centre. Further information will be in the next Magazine.

Tuesday Coffee Morning, 10.30am – noon

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

Saturday Coffee Mornings

28th November 11am-2pm

Please note there is no Saturday Coffee Morning in December

30th January 2027 11am-2pm

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 **0131 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.

Bible Fellowship Group Meetings from 3rd September

All are welcome to the Thursday nights Bible Fellowship meetings from 7.30pm to 8.45pm via Zoom. Our next subjects are the speeches by Paul in Acts. If you have not tried such a group before, please give this one a try. You will receive a warm welcome. You can listen or join in the discussions as suits you. Zoom details from martin.pearce2109@outlook.com

Christmas Market Road Closure

It appears that works for this year's Christmas Market have started earlier than usual, and Kings Stables Road has the barriers up already. This is a reminder that we are allowed access. The suggested course of action is to come from the Grassmarket End of the KS Road, and let the gatesmen know that you are here to go to St Cuthbert's Church. You should then be let through.

