GREYFRIARS ST CUTHBERT'S

Sunday Service at St Cuthbert's

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

The Reign of Christ the King
The Sunday next before Advent

Sunday 22 November 2026

A warm welcome to Greyfriars St Cuthbert's.

Today is the **Sunday next before Advent** – the final Sunday of the Christian Church Year – and on this day, the church celebrates the **Reign of Christ the King**. The liturgical colours for this festive day are **white** and **gold**.

This morning, the **Revd Dr George Whyte**, our Interim Moderator and Locum Minister, leads 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

Sing we triumphant hymns of praise,
new hymns to heaven exulting raise:
Christ, by a road before untrod,
ascendeth to the throne of God.

O grant that we may thither tend,
and with unwearied hearts ascend
toward thy kingdom's throne, where thou,
our great high priest, art seated now.

Church Hymnary, Third Edition, Hymn 305: 1, 2
Text: The Venerable Bede (673-735),
translated by Benjamin Webb (1820-1885)
Music: 'Solemnis Haec Festivitas', *Paris Gradual*, 1685

OPENING SENTENCE

The Lord has become King, clothed with majesty;
the Lord is robed, and girded with might.

Psalm 93: 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

128 How shall I sing that majesty

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 REIGN OF CHRIST THE KING

Almighty and everlasting God,
it is your will to restore all things
in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King.
Grant that the peoples of the earth,
now divided and enslaved by sin,
may be freed and brought together
under his gentle and loving rule;
who lives 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 — **274 The head that once was crowned with thorns**

THE WORD OF GOD

OLD TESTAMENT — Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

EPISTLE — Ephesians 1: 15-23

PSALM 95 — Hymn 59

1 Oh, come, and let us to the Lord
in songs our voices raise,
with joyful noise let us the Rock
of our salvation praise.

2 Let us before his presence come
with praise and thankful voice;
let us sing psalms to him with grace,
and make a joyful noise:

3 For God, a great God, and great King,
above all gods he is.
Depths of the earth are in his hand,
the strength of hills is his.

4 To him the spacious sea belongs,
for he the same did make;
the dry land also from his hands
its form at first did take.

5 O, come, and let us worship him,
let us bow down withal,
and on our knees before the Lord
our Maker let us fall.

6 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, and is,
and shall be evermore. Amen.

Psalm 95: 1-6
verse 1: The Irish Presbyterian Psalter
verses 2-6: The Scottish Psalter, 1929

THE GOSPEL — St Matthew 25: 31-46

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

THE SERMON — The Revd Dr George Whyte

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found – we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight – our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace:
no work too hard for him – in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

Text and Music: David J. Evans (b.1957),
arranged by Richard Shepherd

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

HYMN — **457 All hail the power of Jesus' Name!** — First Tune

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 — Hymn 807

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.

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 Threefold Amen
Music: Traditional Danish

ORGAN RECESSIONAL March *from* Ode for St Cecilia's Day G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

The Feast Day of St Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians, is today, 22 November.

Greyfriars St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh
Notices for St Cuthbert's Church
22nd November 2026

Weekly Intimations

Prayerful Practice

As we mark the end of the Christian Year may we draw strength from remembering that millions of others affirm with us that Christ is King. We pray for our brothers and sisters for whom such an affirmation brings repression. We ask for them the faith to endure.

Sunday 29th November 2026 - Greyfriars

Next week, our Monthly Communion Service will be held at Greyfriars Kirk, led by our interim Moderator and Locum Minister, Rev Dr George Whyte. There will be no service here at St Cuthbert's

Tonight, 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 6th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

We are delighted to welcome back Rev Suzie Stark to lead our worship at 9.30am with Holy Communion in the War Memorial Chapel and at 10.30am Sunday worship.

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.

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.

