

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

PSALM Psalm 72:1-7. 18-19

R *In his time shall the righteous flourish, [and peace till the moon shall be no more].*

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness. **R**

He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. **R**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **R**

Blessèd be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds! And blessèd be his glorious name for ever! and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 15:4-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the

one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GREYFRIARS, KIRKCUDBRIGHT*

Sunday 7th December 2025 – Second Sunday of Advent

Please remember in your prayers: Hazel Dempster, Elizabeth Campbell, Molly Wishart, Allen Stanton, Peter Inge, Anne Redon, Mike Moore, Andy Courtnadge, Louise Boyd, John Curtis, Laura Durling, Elizabeth Hazlett, Dierdre McGill, Judy Parker, Richard Cliff and Dee DuRose.

In Remembrance: we pray for the souls of +Gregor Duncan, Colin Shields and Keith Gibson.

Today's service is a Sung Eucharist and Gift Service at 11am with Revd Alison Hudson Followed by refreshments in Greyfriars House. All are very welcome.

Please bring unwrapped gifts of toys which will be distributed by the Salvation Army in Dumfries to needy families

Our Advent candle prayer

God of peace, during this Advent season, keep us from getting caught up in the busyness and chaos of the world around us. Help us to slow down, so that we may find rest in the Prince of Peace, your son, Jesus Christ. As we prepare for his coming, make us instruments of your peace in our homes, in our schools, in our work and in our world. Amen

Diary dates and Notices

Advent Carols Sunday 7th December at St Mary's Church at 6.30pm. This is a service of Advent Carols and Readings with choral music provided by Quor8. Refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

Stewartry Food Bank The next collection is 9th December. Items for Christmas parcels such as tins of ham, fancy and savoury biscuits, mince pies, cake, chocolates and crackers would be appreciated. These can be left in church, or dropped off at the Parish Church on Tuesday from 9-10am.

Holy Communion Thursday 11th December 2025, 10am with Revd Alison Hudson. Followed at 11am-11.15am by **Churches Together in Prayer.**

Kirkcudbright Christmas Lunch If you would like to join this special Churches Together lunch on Christmas Day, please sign up on the noticeboard by 14th December.

Winter Wonderland a very big thank you to all who helped in anyway. The sum raised was £2,366.09. A cheque for the Guides and Rangers will be donated for the assistance that the Inner Wheel ladies gave us for refreshments.

Epiphany Party Sue Davies has kindly invited members of St Mary's and our congregation to a bring and share supper at Belmont, Burnside Loaning at 6pm on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**. Please let Sue know if you are coming and what you will be contributing by the **5th January**. Tel: 01557 339171 or 07841 377436

Churches Together in Prayer We gather and, for 15 minutes, pray together for the peace of the world. Do join us when you can.

Greyfriars House Revd Alison works from there on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Each **Tuesday** the kettle will be on for **Coffee and Chat** from 2-2.30pm, do pop in.

Neurodivergent and Disability Friendly

Church This is something that we seek to be and to do better. There is a quiet area in the north transept for those who would value a quiet space during worship. If there are other ways, we can help you worship, please speak to Revd Alison or one of the stewards.

Coffee Rota volunteers are needed to prepare and serve refreshments after church on a Sunday. This is an enjoyable and important part of our church life. Please put your name down on the sheet in the porch if you are able to help out occasionally.

Christmas Services at Greyfriars Church

Tuesday 23rd December,
6pm Churches Together **Carol Service**

Wednesday 24th December,
11.15pm **Midnight Mass**

Thursday 25th December,
11am **Holy Communion**



Contact details for Revd Alison, if you have an item for the notices, would like a visit, or for any other reason:

The Rectory, 18 Castledykes Road, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4AN

Home phone: 01557 337377 Mobile: 07725 467246 email: kirkgatepriest@gmail.com

Revd Alison's rest days are Monday and Saturday

Do visit the Church Website for the latest news, photographs, or information - www.greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk or Facebook - **Greyfriars Church Kirkcudbright**