

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.

St. Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church, Gatehouse of Fleet
7th December 2025
Second Sunday of Advent
Celebrant and Preacher: Rev'd Alison Hudson

Please pray for Joyce and Rob Thacker, Laura Durling, Sally-Anne and Peter Madeley, Carol Ducker, Rowan Huggitt, Barbara Graham, Sonia Perry and Dee DuRose

In remembrance and with thanksgiving for the life of Bishop Gregor Duncan.

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

An Advent Course on the theme of 'Hope' will take place on Wednesdays 3rd, 10th and 17th December from 9.30-10.30am in Church. We will incorporate our 'Pause for Prayer' into this and conclude with refreshments.

Advent Carol Service Sunday, 7th December

This evening there will be a service of Advent Carols and Readings with choral music provided by our organist, Susan and her group, Quor8. Refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies

Stewartry Food Bank The next collection is 9th December. Christmas boxes, are to be made up and include items such as tins of ham, fancy and savoury biscuits, shortbread, mince pies, cake, chocolates, crackers and selection boxes. Please note, we no longer include presents and have sufficient Christmas puddings and tins of salmon. Donations may be left at Gatehouse P.O.

Gift Day – Reminder We will be collecting unwrapped toys for children, who might not receive other gifts this Christmas, at our service on 14th December. Please put this date in your diary and consider what you might be able to give.

Christmas Eve 4.00 pm Family Carols Service

Christmas Day 9.30am Holy Communion Service

Epiphany Party 6th January 2026 at 6pm: Sue Davies has kindly invited members of St.Mary's and Greyfriars congregation to a bring and share supper at Belmont, Burnside Loaning. Please let Sue know if you are coming and what you will be contributing, by 5th January. Tel:01557 339171 or 07841377436.

Gift Aid and Giving If you are a visitor or come occasionally to St.Mary's, and you are a tax payer, you may want to complete one of the green envelopes in the pew (not forgetting to include your name and address) in order that we can reclaim the tax. If you would rather give a regular amount, either by standing order or by weekly envelope, please speak to the treasurer David Hart. David can be contacted by email at david21@icloud.com or phone 01557 814294

Website our new updated website is now up and running, please do look through and let Revd Alison have any feedback, as well as any good quality photographs you are willing to share. The address is the same as before - www.greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk We also have a Facebook page – St Mary's Church, Gatehouse of Fleet. If you use Facebook, please do follow and share any posts from this page.

Rev'd Alison's contact details:

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