

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your
messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of
your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make
ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient
to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge
the world
we may be found an acceptable people
in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the
Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

PSALM OR CANTICLE

Either Psalm 146:4-10

R *Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help.*

or

R *Come, Lord, and save us.*

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
Whose hope is in the Lord their God;
Who made heaven and earth, the seas,
and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger. **R**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked. **R**

The Lord shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Alleluia! **R**

Or Luke 1:46b-55 (Magnificat)

R *My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;
from this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name. **R**

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm;
he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **R**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things
and the rich he has sent away empty. **R**

He has come to the help of his servant, Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy.
The promise he made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

POST COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

*SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GREYFRIARS, KIRKCUDBRIGHT*

Sunday 14th December 2025 –Third Sunday of Advent

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

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

**Sung Eucharist at 11am with
The Revd Alison Hudson
Followed by refreshments in Greyfriars House
All are very welcome**

**Thursday 18th December 2025, 10am
Holy Communion, Greyfriars
The Revd Alison Hudson
Followed at 11am – 11.15am by
Churches Together in Prayer**

Our Advent candle prayer

God of joy, it is in your love that we find lasting joy. Keep us from seeking happiness in things that will not last, for we brought nothing into this world and can take nothing out of it. Teach us instead to find joy in the gift of your Son, who came into this world with nothing, yet gave us everything. May his joy bubble up in our hearts and overflow to all we meet this Advent season.
Amen

**Christmas Services at Greyfriars Church
Tuesday 23rd December, 6pm Churches
Together Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday 24th December,
11.15pm Midnight Mass
Thursday 25th December,
11am Holy Communion**



**Kirkcudbright Churches Together.
Carol singing** at Merse house and then
Strathdee on **Friday 19th December 2pm**. All
are welcome to come along.

Kirkcudbright Christmas Lunch Names to be
in this week for Christmas Day lunch either by
filling out the invite at back of church or see
Doreen.

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**.
In order to let Sue know if you are coming and
what you will be contributing please sign up on
the sheet in the porch, or phone Sue on 01557
339171 or 07841 377436 by the **5th January**.

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 here
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.

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**