

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST CUTHBERT, EDINBURGH



TUESDAY 4 APRIL 2017  
1.30 p.m.



JOHN NAPIER OF MERCHISTON  
1550 – 4 APRIL 1617



EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY



CLAN NAPIER SOCIETY

## THE PSALMS

In Napier's day, only psalms were sung (no hymns). Napier would have been familiar with both the text and tunes of Psalm 110 and Psalm 124, and with the text of both Psalm 145 and Psalm 136 whose original tunes have long since fallen out of use.

Psalm 100: text by William Kethe d. 6 June 1594 in the *Scottish Psalter* 1564; tune from *Genevan Psalter* 1551

Psalm 145: text by John Craig 1512 - 1600 in *Scottish Psalter* 1564; the tune 'Duke Street' first appeared in print in Glasgow in 1793.

Psalm 124: text by John Craig, 1512 - 1600 in *Scottish Psalter* 1564; tune from *Genevan Psalter* 1551.

Psalm 136: text by John Craig, 1512 - 1600; tune by William Croft 1678 - 1727

## THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

The Lessons are taken from the Geneva Bible which was used in Scotland in Napier's day

## THE PARTICIPANTS

The Service is conducted by

THE REVEREND CHARLES ROBERTSON, LVO, Minister at St Cuthbert's.

The organ is played by

DR JOHN KITCHEN, MBE, Edinburgh City and University Organist.

The First Lesson is read by

MR CHARLES NAPIER, Clan Napier Society.

The Second Lesson is read by

THE HON. WILLIAM, Master of Napier.

The Address is given by

THE RT. HON. FRANCIS, LORD NAPIER AND ETRICK

The Poem, written by Alexander McCall Smith for the occasion, is read by

PROFESSOR ANDREA NOLAN OBE, Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
Edinburgh Napier University.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY  
*Concerto in C del Sigr Meck*

arr. J. G. Walther

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

PSALM 100

*Old 100th*

All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,  
come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk, he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,  
approach with joy his courts unto:  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good,  
his mercy is for ever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

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

PRAYERS

FIRST LESSON

*Job 38: 1 - 11, 33 - 38*

1 Then answered the Lord unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said,  
2 Who is this that darkeneth the counsel by words without knowledge?  
3 Gird up now thy loins like a man: I will demand of thee and declare thou unto me.  
4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding,  
5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest, or who hath stretched the line over it:  
6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof set: or who laid the cornerstone thereof:  
7 When the stars of the morning praised me together, and all the children of God rejoiced:  
8 Or who hath shut up the Sea with doors, when it issued and came forth as out of the womb:  
9 When I made the clouds as a covering thereof, and darkness as the swaddling bands thereof:  
10 When I established my commandment upon it, and set bars and doors,  
11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no farther, and here shall it stay thy proud waves.  
33 Knowest thou the course of heaven, or canst thou set the rule thereof in the earth?  
34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds that the abundance of water may cover thee?  
35 Canst thou send the lightnings that they may walk, and say unto thee, Lo, here we are?  
36 Who hath put wisdom in the reins? or who hath given the heart understanding?  
37 Who can number clouds by wisdom? or who can cause to cease the bottles of heaven,  
38 When the earth groweth into hardness, and the clots are fast together?

SECOND LESSON

*Revelation 21: 9 - 24*

9 And there came unto me one of the seven Angels, which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and a high mountain, and he shewed me the great city, holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 Having the glory of God, and her shining was like unto a stone most precious, as a jasper stone clear as crystal,

12 And had a great wall and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve Angels, and the names written, which are the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.

13 On the East part there were three gates, and on the Northside three gates, on the Southside three gates, and on the Westside three gates.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the Names of the Lamb's twelve Apostles.

15 And he that talked with me, had a golden reed, to measure the city withal, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

16 And the city lay foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth of it, and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs; and the length, and the breadth, and the height of it are equal.

17 And he measured the wall thereof, a hundred forty and four cubits, by the measure of man, that is, of the Angel.

18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, and every gate is of one pearl, and the street of the city is pure gold, as shining glass.

22 And I saw no Temple therein, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the Temple of it.

23 And the city hath no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God did light it, and the Lamb is the light of it.

24 And the people which are saved, shall walk in the light of it; and the Kings of the earth shall bring their glory and honor unto it.

PSALM 145

*Duke Street*

O Lord, thou art my God and King;  
thee will I magnify and praise:  
I will thee bless, and gladly sing  
unto thy holy name always.

Each day I rise I will thee bless,  
and praise thy name time without end.  
Much to be praised, and great God is;  
his greatness none can comprehend.

Race shall thy works praise unto race,  
the mighty acts show done by thee.  
I will speak of the glorious grace,  
and honour of thy majesty;

Thy wondrous works I will record.  
By men the might shall be extolled  
of all thy dreadful acts, O Lord:  
and I thy greatness will unfold.

ADDRESS

A COSMOS OF NUMBERS

Alexander McCall Smith

He would not have imagined  
That we, his successors in the city,  
Would be here at all –  
He thought the world  
And all it contained, known and unknown,  
Would end long before this –  
He calculated the date, the very year,  
Seventeen hundred, or thereabouts,  
When prophecy would come to pass;  
In that calculation, fortunately,  
He was wrong; we are here  
And his house still stands,  
Surrounded by a different  
Sort of energy: young people  
Beginning something important –  
Their future, under his eye.

What he did was extraordinary:  
A man who worked by himself  
A stranger in a cosmos of numbers,  
But guided by the desire  
To understand, to make sense  
Of the complex mathematics  
That lies beneath everything –  
Our firmament, our sky,  
The particles that make  
Our interior selves; all  
Depend on numbers  
To stay together, to move  
In their proper orbit;  
This man, this mapper of shape,  
Looks down at us from  
Monument and portrait,  
Understands and appreciates  
The university that proclaims his spirit,  
That adds up and multiplies  
That human curiosity at the heart,  
At the numbered centre of our world.

PSALM 124

*Old 124th*

Now Israel may say, and that truly,  
if that the Lord had not our cause maintained;  
if that the Lord had not our right sustained,  
when cruel men against us furiously  
rose up in wrath, to make of us their prey;

Then certainly they had devoured us all,  
and swallowed quick, for aught that we could deem;  
such was their rage, as we might well esteem.  
And as fierce floods before them all things drown,  
so had they brought our soul to death quite down.

The raging streams, with their proud swelling waves,  
had then our soul o'erwhelmèd in the deep.  
But blest be God, who doth us safely keep,  
and hath not given us for a living prey  
unto their teeth, and bloody cruelty.

Even as a bird out of the fowler's snare  
escapes away, so is our soul set free:  
broke are their nets, and thus escapèd we.  
Therefore our help is in the Lord's great name,  
who heaven and earth by his great power did frame.

*Glory to God the Father, God the Son,  
and unto God the Spirit, Three in One.  
From age to age let saints his name adore,  
his power and love proclaim from shore to shore,  
and spread his fame, till time shall be no more. Amen.*

#### PRAYERS

#### PSALM 136

*Croft's 136th*

O laud the Lord benign,  
whose mercies lasts for aye;  
give thanks and praises sing  
to God of gods I say:  
*for certainly  
his mercies dure  
most firm and sure  
eternally.*

The Lord of lords praise ye,  
whose mercies aye doth dure;  
great wonders only he  
doth work by his great power:

Which Lord omnipotent,  
by his great wisdom high,  
the heav'nly firmament  
did frame, as we may see:

To mind he did us call,  
in our most base degree,  
and from oppressors all,  
in safety set us free.

All flesh in earth abroad  
with food he doth fulfil,  
wherefore of heaven, the God  
to laud, be it your will.

*To God the Father, Son,  
and Spirit ever blest,  
eternal Three in One,  
all worship be addressed,  
as heretofore  
it was, is now,  
and still shall be  
for evermore. Amen*

BLESSING

ORGAN VOLUNTARY  
*Fugue in E flat BWV 552ii ('St Anne')*

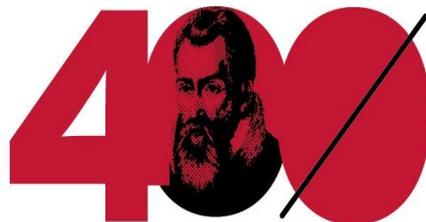
J. S. Bach

After the Service, flowers will be laid at Napier's Memorial in the vestibule of the church, and thereafter refreshments will be served.



In this place (approximately) is buried the body of John Napier of Merchiston who by his marvellous invention of logarithms won for himself the everlasting remembrance of posterity. Died 4 April AD 1617 aged 67. This tablet is put here to honour this great man AD 1842.

**JOHN NAPIER**



1617-2017