www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Scottish Charity: SC016471

Open
inclusive
inspiring
friendly
deep

Rector: The Revd Canon Christoph Wutscher · Tel: 01786 359821 · rector@holytrinitystirling.org

Sunday 23rd February 2025 — 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
EPIPHANY 7

Celebrant: The Revd Ian Boa
Readings: Nick Morris
Sidespeople: Ann Lees or Carolyn Wallis and Libby Coats

PREPARATION

Organ Prelude Théodore Dubois: Prélude (*Douze Pièces*)

Opening Hymn

stand

1 For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)
CCLI Licence # 237731

Opening

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

God is love and we are God's children. There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith. *Silence*

God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry.
Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil.
For the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria Kilcreggan Mass (*see separate music sheet*) *stand*

Glory to God, to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Glory to God, to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Glory to God, to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us, you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer, receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, of God the Father. Amen, Amen.

Collect

Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord: that we, who are weighed down by our sins, may be delivered for the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Genesis 45.3-11,15 *sit*

3 Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so
dismayed were they at his presence. 4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came
closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed, or
angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For the
famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither
ploughing nor harvest. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive
for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh,
and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him,
"Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. 10 You shall
settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as
well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11 I will provide for you there—since there are five
more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to
poverty." 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Gradual Hymn

stand

1 I waited patiently for God,
for God to hear my prayer;
and God bent down to where I sank
and listened to me there.

2 God raised me from a miry pit,
from mud and sinking sand,
and set my feet upon a rock
where I can firmly stand.

3 And on my lips a song was put,
a new song to the Lord.
Many will marvel, open-eyed,
and put their trust in God.

4 Great wonders you have done, O Lord,
all purposed for our good.
Unable every one to name,
I bow in gratitude.

Psalm 40 (39), para. John L. Bell (*b.* 1949)
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Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15.35-38,42-50

sit

35Someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?' 36Fool! What you sow
does not come to life unless it dies. 37And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a
bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each
kind of seed its own body. 42So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is
raised is imperishable. 43It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in
power. 44It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a
spiritual body. 45Thus it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-
giving spirit. 46But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. 47The first man
was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48As was the man of dust, so are those
who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. 49Just as we have borne
the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. 50What I am saying,
brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable
inherit the imperishable.

Gospel Acclamation

stand

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Gospel: Luke 6.27-38

When it is announced: Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Jesus said to his disciples, 27'I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate
you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer
the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30Give to
everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31Do to
others as you would have them do to you. 32'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For
even sinners love those who love them. 33If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to
you? For even sinners do the same. 34If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is
that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35But love your enemies, do good, and
lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for
he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37'Do not judge,

and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; [38]give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

Give thanks to the Lord for this glorious Gospel. **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Sermon: The Rector *sit*

Nicene Creed *stand*

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Intercessions led by Nelson Okeke *sit or kneel*

The Peace *stand*

We meet in Christ's name. **Let us share his peace.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offertory Hymn

1 Above the moon earth rises,
a sunlit, mossy stone,
a garden that God prizes
where life has richly grown,
an emerald selected
for us to guard with care,
an isle in space protected
by one thin reef of air.

2 The mossy stone is grieving,
its tears are bitter rain,
the garden is unleaving
and all its harvests wane,
the emerald is clouded,
its lustre dims and fades,
the isle of life is shrouded
in thick and stagnant haze.

3 O listen to the sighing
of water, sky and land,
and hear the Spirit crying,
the future is at hand:
the moss and garden thinning
portend a death or birth,
the end or new beginning
for all that lives on earth.

4 A death if hearts now harden,
a birth if we repent
and tend and keep the garden
as God has always meant:
to sow without abusing
the soil where life is grown,
to reap without our bruising
the sunlit mossy stone.

Thomas H. Troeger (1945-2022)
CCLI Licence # 237731

Offertory Prayer

Let us present our offerings to the Lord. **Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own we give you.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker, in every place and at all times. All power is yours. You created the heavens and established the earth; you sustain in being all that is. In Christ your Son our life and yours are brought together in a wonderful exchange. He made his home among us that we might for ever dwell in you. Through your Holy Spirit, you call us to new birth in a creation restored by love. As children of your redeeming purpose we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. *sit*

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father, for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. He is the Word existing beyond time, both source and final purpose, bringing to wholeness all that is made. Obedient

to your will he died upon the Cross. By your power you raised him from the dead. He broke the bonds of evil and set your people free to be his Body in the world. On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end. At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you." After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by the Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into
the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters
living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The living bread is broken for the life of the world. Lord, unite us in this sign.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not bring us to the time of trial but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Agnus Dei *see separate music sheet*

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

Communion *is administered in both kinds at the bottom of the chancel steps. Hand sanitiser is provided. It is perfectly acceptable to only receive the bread, should you so wish. Please do not intinct (dip the bread into the wine) as this is not considered to be a hygienic practice.*

Communion Anthem Silesian Melody, arr. Martin How: Fairest Lord Jesus

Communion Hymn

1 O changeless Christ, for ever new,
who walked our earthly ways,
still draw our hearts as once you drew
the hearts of other days.

2 As once you spoke by plain and hill
or taught by shore and sea,
so be today our teacher still,
O Christ of Galilee.

3 As wind and storm their Master heard
and his command fulfilled,
may troubled hearts receive your word,
the tempest-tossed be stilled.

4 And as of old to all who prayed
your healing hand was shown,
so be your touch upon us laid,
unseen but not unknown.

5 In broken bread, in wine outpoured,
your new and living way
proclaim to us, O risen Lord,
O Christ of this our day.

6 O changeless Christ, till life is past
your blessing still be given;
then bring us home, to taste at last
the timeless joys of heaven.

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THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Post Communion Prayer

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Hymn

1 As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.

2 We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers, we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening spirit,
we would live to God's delight.

3 As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
'mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

Ruth C. Duck (1947-2024)
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The Blessing & Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

François Couperin: Dialogue sur les Trompettes (Messe pour les Paroisses)

NOTICES

Monday 24th February
10 – 11.30 a.m. **HT Tots Café**

Thursday 27th February
11 a.m. **Holy Communion**

Sunday 2nd March
SUNDAY BEFORE LENT **Readings**
10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist** Exodus 34.29-35; 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2; Luke 9.28-36

Christmas Re-gifting Stall: The Christmas re-gifting box has been placed at the back of the Church. If you have any Christmas gifts that you would like to 're-gift', please bring them to church and place them in the Santa Box. We plan to run a Re-gifting Stall **next Sunday (2nd March).** Donations by cash or card will be gratefully received. All proceeds will support the work of the Gardening Group.

Conservation Repair Work: The work by Cornerstone Traditional Masonry Ltd on the east end of the Church will continue for a short period. The scaffold will then be dismantled. Renewal of defective pointing, overhaul and painting of the guttering and downpipes will be carried out around the rest of the building during February and March. **LOOK OUT for the high-level access platform and moveable scaffold tower being used next to the Church and Hall. PLEASE TAKE CARE entering or leaving the buildings. DO NOT ENTER AREAS MARKED WITH CONES OR BARRIERS.** Parking will be limited and vehicle circulation may not be possible. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused.