www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Scottish Charity: SC016471

Open
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deep

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

Sunday 30th March 2025 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
LENT 4 (Mothering Sunday)

Celebrant: The Rector
Readings: Mary Kenyon
Sidespeople: Rachel Campbell & Ann Lees

PREPARATION

Organ Prelude

Opening Hymn

stand

1 God of Eve and God of Mary,
God of love and mother-earth,
thank you for the ones who with us
shared their life and gave us birth.

2 As you came to earth in Jesus,
so you come to us today;
you are present in the caring
that prepares us for life's way.

3 Thank you that the Church, our Mother,
gives us bread and fills our cup,
and the comfort of the Spirit
warms our hearts and lifts us up.

4 Thank you for belonging, shelter,
bonds of friendship, ties of blood,
and for those who have no children,
yet are parents under God.

5 God of Eve and God of Mary,
Christ our brother, human Son,
Spirit, caring like a Mother,
take our love and make us one!

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.

Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this:
"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind and with all your strength."
The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself."
There is no other commandment greater than these.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie *see separate music sheet*

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Collect

Almighty God, grant that we, who are weighed down by our sins, may be relieved and encouraged by your grace; 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: Joshua 5.9-12 *sit*

After the Israelites had crossed over the Jordan river, [9]The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.' And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. [10]While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. [11]On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. [12]The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm 32 (*please join in saying the text in **bold**, pausing shortly at the *asterisk*)

Refrain: **You, O Lord, are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;**

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,*
and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,*
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,*
because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;*
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.*
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;*
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;*
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;*
I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;*
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Great are the tribulations of the wicked;*
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;*
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Refrain: **You, O Lord, are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.16-21

16From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ
from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new
creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18All this is from God, who
reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God
was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message
of reconciliation to us. 20So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we
entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Gospel Acclamation *see separate music sheet* *stand*

Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour, Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God, who leads us to freedom: glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Words: Bernadette Farrell
OneLicense # A-632863

Gospel: Luke 15.1-3,11*b*-32

When it is announced: **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

1All the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were
grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' 3So he told them this parable:
11'There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of
the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. 13A few days later the younger
son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute
living. 14When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to
be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields
to feed the pigs. 16He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one
gave him anything. 17But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread
enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him,
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me
like one of your hired hands.' " 20So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father
saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21Then the son
said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your
son." 22But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a
ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24for

this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. [25]'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. [26]He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. [27]He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." [28]Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. [29]But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. [30]But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" [31]Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. [32]But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

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

Sermon: The Revd Val Nellist *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 Robert Nellist *sit or kneel*

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.

The Peace

stand

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offertory Hymn

1 Today we bring our thankful hearts,
for all a mothering love imparts:
for those who gave us life and breath,
for love that's stronger far than death.

2 For kindness, patience, warmth and care,
for each embrace, each tear, each prayer,
each word of peace, each healing touch,
these simple gifts which mean so much.

3 We look to you, our mothering Lord,
who knows love's cost, and love's reward,
your passion fiercer than the grave,
love for the world you came to save.

Ally Barrett (b. 1975) CCLI Licence # 237731

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made: it will become for us the bread of life. Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands; it will become the cup of our salvation. Blessed be God for ever.

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, maker of light and darkness. Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos, brings a harvest out of sorrow and leads the exiles home. In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven and strangers made welcome. Your Spirit frees us to live as sons and daughters in our Father's house. We who by Christ's power follow the way of the Cross, sharing the joy of his obedience, now 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. *see separate music sheet*
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. Hosanna in the highest. *sit*

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father, for Christ in whom the world is reconciled. Lifted on the Cross, his suffering and forgiveness spanned the gulf our sins had made. Through that dark struggle death was swallowed up in victory, that life and light might reign. Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which the sons of Egypt died, your Chosen One, himself the First-Born, freely offered his life. 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: grant us peace, grant us 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. The communicant may respond with* ***Amen*** *when receiving the bread and wine.*

Communion Hymn

1 Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun;
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

2 Mothering Christ, you took my form
offering me your food of light,
grain of life, and grape of love,
your very body for my peace;
your very body for my peace.

3 Mothering Spirit, nurturing one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow,
until I flower, until I know;
until I flower, until I know.

Jean Janzen (b. 1933)
OneLicense # A-632863

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Post Communion Prayer

stand

Loving God, your steadfast purpose is the completion of all things in your Son. May we who have received the pledges of the kingdom, live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Hymn

1 From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey, Lord,
baptised in grace, in grace renewed,
by your most holy word.

2 Through fasting, prayer, and charity,
your voice speaks deep within,
returning us to ways of truth
and turning us from sin.

3 From desert to the mountaintop
in Christ our way we see,
so, tempered by temptation's might,
we might transfigured be.

4 For thirsting hearts let waters flow,
our fainting souls revive;
and at the well your waters give –
our everlasting life.

5 From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey still;
through cross and tomb to Easter joy,
in Spirit-fire fulfilled.

Alan J Hommerding
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The Blessing & Dismissal

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

Organ Postlude Jeremiah Clarke: The Prince of Denmark's March

NOTICES

Monday 31st March
10 – 11.30 a.m. Tots Café
1.30 p.m. Gardening Group

Thursday 3rd April
11 a.m. Holy Communion
11.30 a.m. Lent Group (Morning Session 4)
8 p.m. Lent Group (Evening Session 4)

Sunday 6th April	Readings
LENT 5	Isaiah 43.16-21; Philippians 3.4*b*-14;
10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist	John 12.1-8.

Lent Groups 2025: Voice of the Living Light
This Lent, we are looking at the work and legacy of the nun, visionary and theologian Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) by reflecting on her life and on excerpts of her writing- and by meditating on some of the images accompanying her visions and music she composed. Two groups are meeting in parallel on Thursday mornings (after the 11am service) and in the evenings at 8 p.m. with two sessions remaining on 3rd & 10th April.

Easter Bunny Drive: On Sunday 27th April 2025 there will be a family friendly, inclusive Easter Bunny Drive,(in the manner of a Beetle Drive) in the hall during coffee. Each sheet will cost £1 and all money raised will go towards the cost of the new church hall floor. You can even purchase sheets to play at home!

Conservation Repair Work: The work by Cornerstone Traditional Masonry Ltd on the Church continues. The scaffold has been dismantled. Renewal of defective pointing, overhaul and painting of the guttering and downpipes is being carried out around the rest of the building for a few weeks more. 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.