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 25th February 2024 — 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
## LENT 2

**Celebrant:** The Rector
**Readings:** Nikki Jorgensen
**Sidespeople:** Carol Kendall & Fiona Macleod

*Offerings at Holy Trinity – No Collection is taken during services. If you wish to make an Offering, please use one of the baskets at the back of the Church before or after the service. Gift Aid donation envelopes and a Card Reader for debit or credit cards are also both available. Contributions go towards the Ministry and running costs or to any special collections announced. All are gratefully received. Registered Scottish Charity SC016471.*

## PREPARATION

**Organ Prelude** Arvo Pärt: Spiegel im Spiegel
*"mirror in the mirror"*

**Opening Hymn** (*please stand*)

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
© 1994 World Library Publications
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 (*please stand*) – *see separate music sheet*

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

## Collect

O God, you see that we lack the strength to help ourselves: protect us both inwardly and outwardly; that our bodies may be guarded from adversity, and our minds may be defended from such thoughts as assault and harm the soul; 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 17.1-7, 15-16 (*please sit*)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God
Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will
make you exceedingly numerous.' 3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4 'As for me, this is my
covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be
Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6 I will
make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7 I will establish
my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an
everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 15 God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai
your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover I will give
you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

## Psalm 22.22-31 (*please join in saying the text in **bold**, pausing shortly at the *asterisk*)

*Refrain:* All the ends of the earth **shall turn to you, O Lord**.

I will declare your name to my kindred; *
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

**Praise the Lord, you that fear God; ***
**stand in awe of God, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.**

For God does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither turns away from them; *
when they cry to the Lord, they are heard.

**My praise is of God in the great assembly; ***
**I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Lord.**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall give praise: *
"May your heart live for ever!"

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, ***
**and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.**

For sovereignty belongs to the Lord, *
who rules over the nations.

**To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; ***
**all who go down to the dust fall before God.**

My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve God; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

**They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn ***
**the saving deeds that God has done.**

*Refrain:* **All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord.**

## Second Reading: Romans 4.13-25

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law
but through the righteousness of faith. [14] If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null
and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. [16] For
this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his
descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is
the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the
God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not
exist. [18] Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to
what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' [19] He did not weaken in faith when he considered
his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he
considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. [20] No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God,
but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, [21] being fully convinced that God was able to do what

he had promised. [22] Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ [23] Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him’, were written not for his sake alone, [24] but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, [25] who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## Gospel Acclamation (*please stand*) – *see separate music sheet*

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: Mark 8.31-38 (*please stand*) *When it is announced:* Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. [32] He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. [33] But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’ [34] He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. [35] For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. [36] For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? [37] Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? [38] Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

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

## Sermon: The Rector

## Nicene Creed (*please 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 David Brown (*please 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 (*please stand*)

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

# THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

## Offertory Hymn (*please stand*)

1 Year by year, from past to future
worship marks our upward climb,
sets the rhythm of our journey
to eternity through time:
though the outward things diminish
we are held more firm by grace,
following God's heavenward calling
and the everlasting prize.

2 As we seek to weave life's fabric
on the lengthening loom of days,
may Christ guide the threads that form it,
be the pattern it displays;
may the Father, master craftsman,
sorrowing over each mistake,
plan for us a new perfection
from the ugliness we make.

3 Though we long for the adventure
of the mystery of bliss,
to the pilgrim's eyes the pathway
breaks, and ends in death's abyss;
but within the dark are waiting
hands that bear the print of nails,
which will hold us safe and bear us
where the worship never fails.

Alan Luff
© Stainer & Bell Ltd
OneLicense # A-632863

## Offertory Prayer (*please stand*)

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.** *(please 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.*

**During Communion** Choir: Christ has no body now but yours – David Ogden

# THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

## Post Communion Prayer

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 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.

2 Take up thy cross: let not its weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm thy spirit up,
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.

3 Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel:
thy Lord for thee the cross endured,
to save thy soul from death and hell.

4 Take up thy cross then in his strength,
and calmly every danger brave;
'twill guide thee to a better home,
And lead to victory o'er the grave.

5 Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only they who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

6 To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,
all praise for evermore ascend:
O grant us in our home to see
the heavenly life that knows no end.

C. W. Everest (1814-1877)

## The Blessing & Dismissal

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

**Organ Postlude** Johann Hanff: Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott
*O Lord God, be merciful to me*

## NOTICES

**Monday 26th February**
10 – 11.30 a.m. **HT Tots Café**

**Tuesday 27th February**
7.30 – 9.30 p.m. **Young Adults Group** (at St Saviour's Church Hall Bridge of Allan)
For more information, please email youngadultsgroup021@gmail.com

**Wednesday 28th February**
10.30 a.m. **Lent Group** (Session 2)

**Thursday 29th February**
11 a.m. **Holy Communion**
8 p.m. **Lent Group** (Session 2)

| **Sunday 3rd March** | **Readings** |
|---|---|
| LENT 3 | Exodus 20.1-17; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25; |
| 10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist** | John 2.13-22 |

**Regifting Stall**
Christmas is a time for giving and often we end up with gifts that are either duplicates or possibly 'appreciated' more by others. If you have any such presents that you would like to 'regift', we plan to run a Regifting Stall on Sunday the 3rd March. Please place any items that you would like to regift into the box at the back of church. These items will be available in the Regifting Stall. Donations by cash or credit card will be gratefully received. All proceeds will support the work of the Gardening Group.

**Lent Collection 2024**
This year's Lent Collection will go towards the Bishop's Lent Appeal for Kolkata Cathedral's **ASHAKIRAN - RAY of HOPE Programme for women, young girls and children**. Special envelopes are provided should you want to make a contribution. As all year round, we continue to collect food items for **StartUp Stirling** and the 'Extra Cuppa' donations at social time after the services will go towards this local charity. Many thanks for your support!