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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 10th September 2023

Pentecost 16 – Season of Creation

Celebrant: The Rector

Readings: Andrew Tyler

Sidespeople: Jane & Nick Morris

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

As the whole of creation looks with eager longing for the redemption of humankind, let us pledge ourselves anew to serve our Creator God, the Father who is the maker of all things, the Son through whom all things are made, and the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who renews the face of the earth.

PREPARATION

Organ Prelude Florence Price: Adoration

Opening Hymn (*please stand*)

1 Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

2 Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

3 Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

4 Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

Love Maria Willis

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

Loving God, you are the source of all that is, creating and sustaining every living thing. Called to be good stewards of your creation, we acknowledge the ways in which we have marred your image within us, as we 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 *(please stand)*

1 Glory in the highest to the God of heaven!
Peace to all your people through the earth be given:
mighty God and Father, thanks and praise we bring,
singing alleluias to our heavenly King.

2 Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son:
with the Holy Spirit, you are Lord alone!
Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,
show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.

3 Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy one,
seated now and reigning from your Father's throne:
Lord and God, we praise you; highest heaven adores:
in the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!

Christopher Idle
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Collect

God Most High, maker of heaven and earth, you created humankind in your own image and entrusted the whole world to human care: give us grace to serve you faithfully, that we might be trustworthy stewards of your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Genesis 50.15-21 *(please sit)*

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your

father.’ Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, ‘We are here as your slaves.’ ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?’ ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.’ In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Gradual Psalm 103

The verses are sung by a cantor. Please join in singing the refrain:



1 My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless God’s holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all God’s blessings.

2 It is the Lord who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

3 God’s wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
God does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

4 For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is God’s love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does the Lord remove our sins.

Music: © Geoffrey Bolton Smith
Words from The Psalms: A New Translation
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Second Reading: Romans 14.1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.’ ¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

**Gospel
Acclamation**
(please stand)



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu -
ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al -
le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 18.21-35 (please stand)

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

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

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

Sermon: The Revd Ian Boa

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 Alistair Shaw *(please sit or kneel)*

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 Oh, the life of the world is a joy and a treasure,
unfolding in beauty the green-growing tree,
the changing of seasons in mountain and valley,
the stars and the bright restless sea.

2 Oh, the life of the world is a fountain of goodness
overflowing in labour and passion and pain,
in the sound of the city and the silence of wisdom,
in the birth of a child once again.

3 Oh, the life of the world is the source of our healing.
It rises in laughter and wells up in song;
it springs from the care of the poor and the broken
and refreshes where justice is strong.

4 So give thanks for the life and give love to the Maker,
and rejoice in the gift of the bright risen Son,
and walk in the peace and the power of the Spirit
till the days of our living are done.

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Offertory Prayer *(please stand)*

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, O God, Creator of all things visible and invisible, Source of life and immortality, Whom the heavens praise, the sun and moon and all the stars, the earth, the sea and all that is in them, in every place and at all times. By your holy Word you brought order out of chaos. You divided light from darkness, created the heavens and established the earth; you divided the sea from the dry land, and caused all life to come into being. When you had made the plants and the animals, you formed humanity in your own image, and entrusted us with the priesthood of your Creation. In Christ your holy Word became flesh, took our human form, lived among us, and, through dying on the cross, overcame sin and death, that your creation might be restored in him. Through your life-giving Holy Spirit Who first moved over the waters, you renew your creation, call us to new birth, in a world restored by love. As children of your redeeming purpose, with all your creatures throughout space and time we offer you our praise, together 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. *(please sit)*

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, God our creator, for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. Christ is your holy Wisdom, existing beyond time, present at creation. Through Christ you revealed yourself in the world, and bring your saving work to its completion. 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

1 Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.
2 Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world,
Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.
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 Chant

The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens too;
the peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you;
God's peace growing in you.

Guatemalan text
tr. Christine Carson
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THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Post Communion Prayer

God, the source of all that is, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy. **Amen.**

Final Hymn (*please stand*)

1 Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2 See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage:
grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age?

3 Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading,
light by night and shade by day;
daily on the manna feeding
which he gives them when they pray.

4 Saviour, if of Zion's city,
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldlings' pleasure,
all their boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.

John Newton (*alt.*)

The Blessing & Dismissal

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

Organ Postlude Edwin Lemare: Processional

NEXT WEEK

Monday 18th September

10 – 11.30 a.m. HT Tots Café

Tuesday 19th September

11 a.m. **Funeral** Raymond Kemp (HT)

7.30 – 9.30 p.m. **Young Adults Group** (at St Saviour's Bridge of Allan)

Thursday 21st September

Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

11 a.m. **Holy Communion**

Friday 22nd September

1 p.m. **Funeral** Sandra Hartley (Stirling Crematorium)

Sunday 24th September

PENTECOST 17 (ACM)

8.30 a.m. **Holy Communion**

10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist**

2 - 4 p.m. **Stirling Open Doors** at HT

Readings

Jonah 3.10-4.11; Philippians 1.21-30;

Matthew 20.1-16

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** (ACM) will be held **next Sunday**. As last year: Please bring your own lunch, tea & coffee will be provided. We are looking for two new vestry members: please speak to the Rector should you be interested in joining.