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# 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](mailto:rector@holytrinitystirling.org)

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Pentecost 17 & ACM**

**Celebrant:** The Rector

**Readings:** Bob Piper

**Sidespeople:** Jan Foster & Fiona Macleod

**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** Felix Mendelssohn: Adagio (Sonata 1) MVW W 56

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

1 All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam:

*O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2 Dear mother earth, who day by day  
unfoldest blessings on our way,  
O praise him, alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,  
let them his glory also show:

*O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

3 Let all things their creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness;  
O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:

*O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

William Henry Draper  
Based on St Francis of Assisi

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.**

## Collect

God the Creator, in Christ you call all people to the fullness of glory for which you created us in your image: heal our hardened hearts, renew our obedience to your will, and conform our lives to your gracious design, 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:** Philippians 1.21-30 (*please sit*)

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. <sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**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.**

Jesus said: 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard.<sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.<sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place;<sup>4</sup> and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.<sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.<sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?"<sup>7</sup> They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."<sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first."<sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.<sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.<sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,<sup>12</sup> saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."<sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?<sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.<sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?"<sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

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

**ACM: The Rector's Report & Reflections**

**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 Mary Kenyon (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 We who live by sound and symbol,  
we who learn from sight and word,  
find these married in the person  
of the one we call our Lord.  
Taking bread to be his body,  
taking wine to be his blood,  
he let thought take flesh in action,  
he let faith take root in food.

2 Not just once with special people,  
not just hidden deep in time,  
but wherever Christ is followed,  
earthy fare becomes sublime.  
Though to sound this be a mystery,  
Though to sense it seems absurd,  
Yet in faith, which seems like folly,  
We meet Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

3 God our Maker, send your Spirit,  
consecrate the bread we break.  
Let it bring the life we long for  
and the love which we forsake.  
Bind us closer to each other,  
both forgiving and forgiven;  
give us grace in this and all things  
to discern the hand of heaven.

John Bell & Graham Maule  
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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

1 Look and learn from the birds of the air,  
flying high above worry and fear;  
neither sowing nor harvesting seed,  
yet they're given whatever they need.

If the God of earth and heaven  
cares for birds as much as this,  
won't he care much more for you,  
when you put your trust in him?

2 Look and learn from the flowers of the field,  
bringing beauty and colour to life;  
neither sewing nor tailoring cloth,  
yet they're dressed in the finest attire.

If the God of earth and heaven  
cares for flowers as much as this,

won't he care much more for you,  
when you put your trust in him?

3 What God wants should be our will;  
where God calls should be our goal.  
When we seek the kingdom first,  
all we've lost is ours again.

Let's be done with anxious thoughts,  
set aside tomorrow's cares,  
live each day that God provides,  
putting all our trust in him.

# 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 Bright you break the bars of darkness,  
radiant rise, our day's new Dawn.  
Sharp the shards that fall around you,  
fragments of a world now gone.

2 At your feet, death's chains lie severed,  
underfoot, sin's sceptre cleft;  
all creation sovereign claims you,  
evil of its power bereft.

3 Let your light fall full upon us  
where we cower, cloaked in dread.  
Coax the fearful from their hiding,  
rouse the sleepers, wake the dead!

4 Make the earth ring with rejoicing;  
see, the winter storms are past.  
Cast our sorrow, banish mourning:  
all things are made new to last!

5 Pierced, the rock pours forth fresh waters,  
swift they flow through all the earth,  
till dry desert blooms with fragrance,  
till dead landscape comes to birth.

6 Green the garden springs around you,  
Tree of Life now wreathed in leaf;  
wheat fields promise gold of harvest:  
glory radiant in the sheaf.

Genevieve Glen OSB alt. © The Benedictine Nuns of the Abbey of St Walburga OneLicense # A-63286

## The Blessing & Dismissal

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

**Organ Postlude** Felix Mendelssohn: Prelude in G MWV W 22

## NEXT WEEK

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September**  
10 – 11.30 a.m. **HT Tots Café**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September**  
7.30 – 9.30 p.m. **Young Adults Group** (at St Saviour's Bridge of Allan):  
Cathy Johnston will talk about the Provincial and local Net Zero Project

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September**  
11 a.m. **Holy Communion**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October**  
Harvest Thanksgiving      **Readings**  
8.30 a.m. **Holy Communion**      Deuteronomy 26.1-11;  
10.30 a.m. **All Age Eucharist**      2 Corinthians 9.6-15; Matthew 6.25-33  
(Donations for StartUp Stirling will be gladly received at the service)

The **Church Garden Group** would appreciate the donation of any spare permeable black matting for the weeded edging at the front church wall. Please contact Joan Lyon on 07807 783168.



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## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (ACM) 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### During the service

- 1) In Memoriam
- 2) Rector's Report

### Coffee

- 3) Apologies for Absence
- 4) Minutes of ACM 2022
- 5) Matters Arising
- 6) Receiving of Reports – available in ACM Booklet
- 7) Additional Comments from the Treasurer
  - (a) submission of 2022/2023 accounts
  - (b) submission of 2023/2024 budget
- 8) Presentations & Discussion:
  - Outreach: Community Survey
  - Fabric
  - Flourishing Future & HT Grounds
- 9) Appointments: Lay Rep, Alt Lay Rep, Vestry Members, Independent Examiner
- 10) AOCB
- 11) The Grace