www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Scottish Charity: SC016471

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

Sunday 1st October 2023
HARVEST THANKSGIVING

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. All Age Eucharist

Celebrant: The Rector
Readings: Mary Kenyon
Sidespeople: Cate & Barrie Watson

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

Opening Hymn (*please stand*)

1 Praise and thanksgiving,
Father, we offer,
for all things living
thou madest good;
harvest of sown fields,
fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields,
blossom and wood.

2 Bless thou the labour
we bring to serve thee,
that with our neighbour
we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling,
we would work with thee;
harvesting, milling,
for daily bread.

3 Father, providing
food for thy children,
thy wisdom guiding
teaches us share
one with another,
so that, rejoicing
with us, our brother
may know thy care.

4 Then will thy blessing
reach every people;
freely confessing
thy gracious hand.
Where thy will reigneth
no one will hunger:
thy love sustaineth;
fruitful the land.

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

Opening Responses

Believing that God made and loves the world, **we gather.**
That it may be restored to fulfil God's purposes, **we pray.**
To seek a wisdom deeper than our own, **we listen.**
To honour God who gave us a voice, **we worship.** (© 2021 Wild Goose Resource Group)

Gloria: *Peruvian Gloria* (*please stand*)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father!
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father!
To God be glory forever. **To God be glory forever.**
Alleluia, Amen! **Alleluia, Amen, Alleluia, Amen, Alleluia, Amen!**

Glory to God, glory to God, Son of the Father!
Glory to God, glory to God, Son of the Father!
To God be glory forever. **To God be glory forever.**
Alleluia, Amen! **Alleluia, Amen, Alleluia, Amen, Alleluia, Amen!**
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!
To God be glory forever. **To God be glory forever.**
Alleluia, Amen! **Alleluia, Amen, Alleluia, Amen, Alleluia, Amen!**

Collect

God, in whom all things are possible, you crown the year with your goodness and give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, so that none may hunger, none may thirst, and all may cherish the gifts 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.

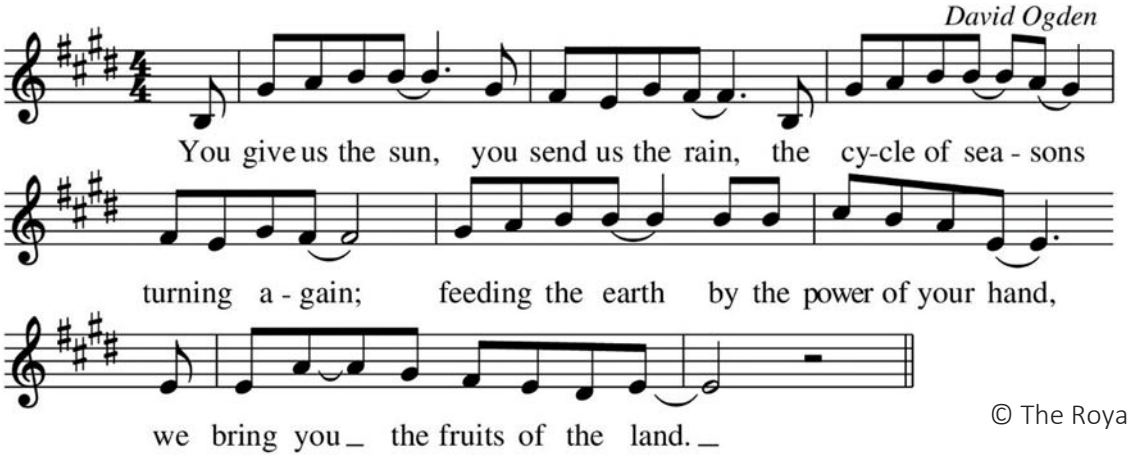
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 9.6-15 (*please sit*)

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. [7] Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [8] And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. [9] As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' [10] He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. [11] You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; [12] for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. [13] Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, [14] while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. [15] Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Gradual Hymn

Please join in singing the refrain:



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Gospel: Matthew 6.25-33 (*please stand*)

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

Jesus said: 'I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? [26] Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? [27] And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? [28] And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, [29] yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. [30] But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? [31] Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" [32] For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. [33] But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'

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

Talk: The Rector

Creed (*please stand*)

Do you believe in God the Father, who made the world?

I believe in God the Father.

Do you believe in God the Son, who redeemed humanity?

I believe in God the Son.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to God's people?

I believe in God the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Intercessions led by Andrew Pont (*please sit or kneel*)

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.

The Peace (*please stand*) We meet in Christ's name. Let us share his peace.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offertory Hymn (*please stand*) *verse two is sung by the choir and music group*

1 Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2 We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who still foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

3 Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses, and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

4 God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ, re-connect us,
using us gently and making us one.

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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.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have ourselves to offer, shaped in your image and called to new life; we will become for you a living body. 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, 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.

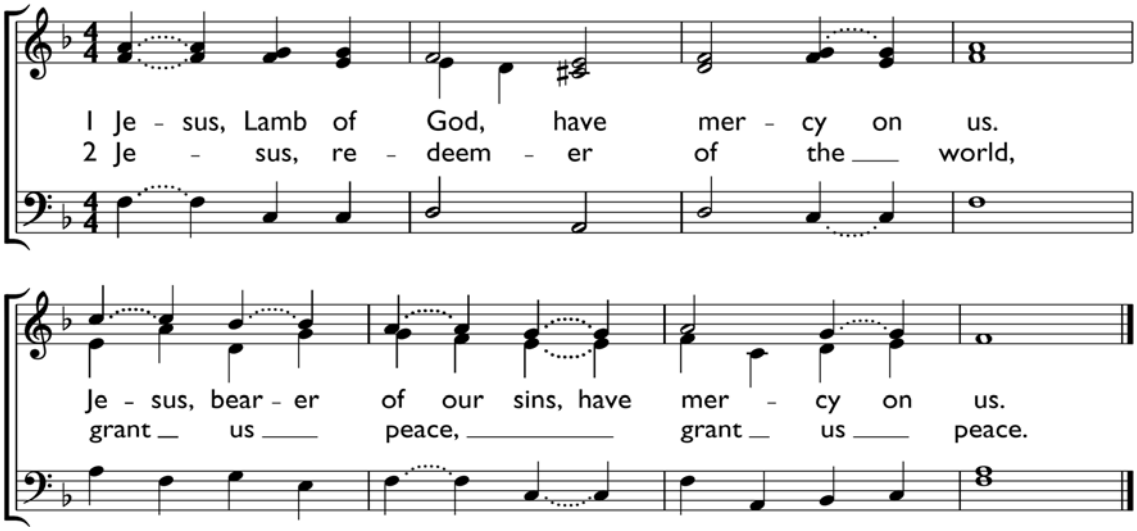
The Breaking of the Bread

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.

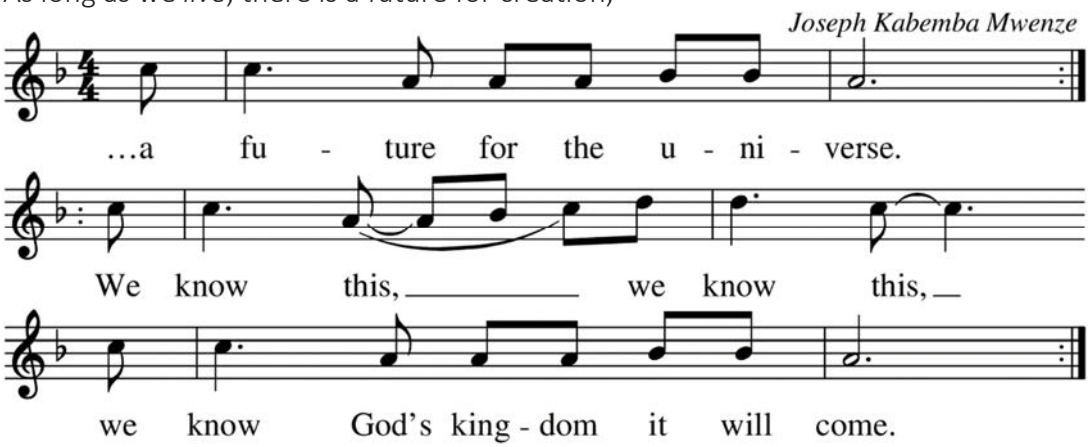
Agnus Dei



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

As long as we *live*, there is a future for creation,

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Post Communion Hymn

1 O Lord, our Lord, throughout the earth
how glorious is your name,
and glorious too where unseen heavens
your majesty proclaim.
On infant lips, in children's song
a strong defence you raise
to counter enemy and threat,
and foil the rebel's ways.

2 When I look up, and see the stars
which your own fingers made,
and wonder at the moon and stars,
each perfectly displayed;
then must I ask, 'Why do you care?
Why love humanity?
And why keep every mortal name
fixed in your memory?'

3 Yet such as us you made and meant
just less than gods to be;
with honour and with glory, Lord,
you crowned humanity.
And then dominion you bestowed
for all made by your hand,
all sheep and cattle, birds and fish
that move through sea or land.

O Lord, our Lord, throughout the earth
how glorious is your name.

John Bell
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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 Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field,
praise God for the people who gather their yield,
the long hours of labour, the skills of a team,
the patience of science, the power of machine.

2 Praise God for the harvest that comes from afar,
from market and harbour, the sea and the shore:
foods packed and transported, and gathered and grown
by God-given neighbours, unseen and unknown.

3 Praise God for the harvest that's quarried and mined,
then sifted, and smelted, or shaped and refined;
for oil and for iron, for copper and coal,
praise God, who in love has provided them all.

4 Praise God for the harvest of science and skill,
the urge to discover, create and fulfil:
for dreams and inventions that promise to gain
a future more hopeful, a world more humane.

5 Praise God for the harvest of mercy and love,
from leaders and peoples who struggle and serve
with patience and kindness, that all may be led
to freedom and justice, and all may be fed.

Brian Wren
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The Blessing

God give you grace to be faithful stewards of Creation, rejoicing that you are made in God's image, and seeking justice for those who do not share in the earth's bounty, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

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

NOTICES

Monday 2nd October
10 – 11.30 a.m. **HT Tots Café**

Tuesday 3rd October
7.30 – 9.30 p.m. **Young Adults Group** (at St Saviour's Bridge of Allan)

Thursday 5th October
11 a.m. **Holy Communion**

Sunday 8th October

PENTECOST 19
8.30 a.m. **Holy Communion**
10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist**

Readings
Isaiah 5.1-7; Philippians 3.4b-14;
Matthew 21.33-46