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 19th November 2023 — 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

PENTECOST 25

Celebrant: The Rector
Readings: Sarah Shaw
Sidespeople: Jane & Nick Morris

PREPARATION

Organ Prelude Johann Sebastian Bach: Sonatina (Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit) BWV 106

Opening Hymn (*please stand*)

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

W. Chalmers Smith

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

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.

Gloria Kilcreggan Mass (*see separate music sheet*) (*please stand*)

Glory to God, to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Glory to God, to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Glory to God, to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us, you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer, receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, of God the Father. Amen, Amen.

Collect

O Lord, forgive the transgressions of your people: and by your goodness release us from the snare of sin, in which, by our frailty, we have been caught; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

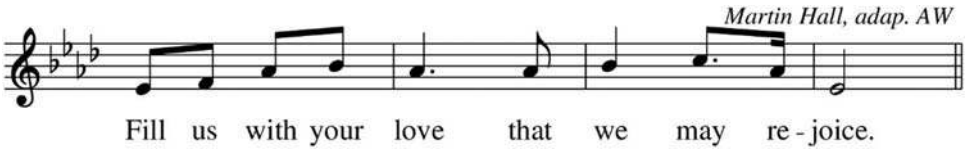
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18 (*please sit*)

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' [13] Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. [14] The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. [15] That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, [16] a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. [17] I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. [18] Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Gradual Psalm (from Psalm 90)

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



1 Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

2 In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy to balance our affliction
for the years when we knew misfortune.

3 Show forth your work to your servants;
let your glory shine on their children.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.

Words: The Grail (England)
Music: Martin Hall
OneLicense # A-632863

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to
you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When
they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come
upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to
surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of
darkness. [6] So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; [7] for those who
sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be
sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has
destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that
whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each
other, as indeed you are doing.

Gospel Acclamation (*please stand*)

Please repeat the Gospel Acclamation after the cantor and again after the Gospel.

Gospel: Matthew 2.14-30 (*please stand*)

When it is announced: Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Jesus told this this parable: 'For the kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves
and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each
according to his ability. Then he went away. [16] The one who had received the five talents went off at once and
traded with them, and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made
two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and
hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with
them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying,
"Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." [21] His master said to him,
"Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of

many things; enter into the joy of your master.” [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” [23] His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” [26] But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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 Tony Mitchell (*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 Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
you are one with us,
Mary's Son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesus our love for you we sing,
living Lord.

2 Lord Jesus Christ ,
now and every day
teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of you:
into our lives your power breaks through,
living Lord.

3 Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
born as one with us,
Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus help us see,
you are Lord.

4 Lord Jesus Christ
I would come to you,
live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your power breaks through,
living Lord.

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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, God our maker, in every place and at all times. All power is yours. You created the heavens and established the earth; you sustain in being all that is. In Christ your Son our life and yours are brought together in a wonderful exchange. He made his home among us that we might for ever dwell in you. Through your Holy Spirit, you call us to new birth in a creation restored by love. As children of your redeeming purpose we 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 the gift of your Son born in human flesh. He is the Word existing beyond time, both source and final purpose, bringing to wholeness all that is made. 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 (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: give us your 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 Humbly in your sight we come together, Lord;
grant us now the blessing of your presence here.

2 These, our hearts, are yours, we give them to you, Lord;
purify our love to make it like your own.

3 These, our eyes, are yours, we give them to you, Lord;
may we always see your world as with your sight.

4 These, our hands, are yours, we give them to you, Lord;
give them strength and skill to do all work for you.

5 These, our feet, are yours, we give them to you, Lord;
may we always walk the path of life with you.

6 These, our tongues, are yours, we give them to you, Lord;
may we speak your healing words of life and truth.

7 These, our ears, are yours, we give them to you, Lord;
open them to hear the Gospel as from you.

8 Our whole selves are yours, we give them to you, Lord;
take us now and keep us yours for evermore.

Malawian, J.P. Chirwa
translated & adapted Tom Colvin
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THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Post Communion Prayer

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Hymn (*please stand*)

1 'The kingdom is upon you!'
the voice of Jesus cries,
fulfilling with its message
the wisdom of the wise;
it lightens with fresh insight
the striving human mind,
creating new dimensions
of faith for all to find.

2 'God's kingdom is upon you!'
the message sounds today,
it summons every pilgrim
to take the questing way,
with eyes intent on Jesus,
our leader and our friend,
who trod faith's road before us,
and trod it to the end.

3 The kingdom is upon us!
Stirred by the Spirit's breath,
we glory in its freedom
from emptiness and death;
we celebrate its purpose,
its mission and its goal,
alive with the conviction
that Christ can make us whole.

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The Blessing & Dismissal

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

Organ Postlude Samuel Dushkin: Sicilienne (formerly ascribed to Maria Theresia von Paradis)

NOTICES

Tuesday 21st November
7.30 – 9.30 p.m. **Young Adults Group** (at St Saviour's Bridge of Allan)

Thursday 23rd November
11 a.m. **Holy Communion**
8 p.m. **Gravetalk:** As Christians we believe that death is not the end, and holds no fear. But are we happy to talk about it? Gravetalk is an opportunity to talk and share thoughts on death, dying and, as a result, life.

Paperboat Campaign
The campaign - 1000 Paperboats, 1000 Climate Hopes - is to encourage people to engage with their MSPs on the issue of climate change. Paperboats with climate messages are to be delivered to the Scottish Parliament on the morning of 23rd November: please see **paperboats.org** for more information.

Sunday 26th November	**Readings**
Christ the King	Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1.15-23;
10.30 a.m. **All Age Eucharist**	Matthew 25.31-46

The service on the 26th will be followed by a **Community Lunch**: please do let Helen Piper or Carol Kendall know of any dietary requirements.

Advent Study Groups 2023
This year, we will be discussing Barbara Brown Taylor's **Learning to Walk in the Dark**. We ordered 20 copies of the book, please feel free to pick up a copy at the back of the church. Donations to HT are appreciated. Two groups will meet for three weeks in December: Wednesday mornings at 10.30 a.m. (6th, 13th & 20th December) and Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. (7th, 14th & 21st December). Sign-up sheets at the back of church.