**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**28 April 2024—Fifth Sunday of Easter**

945am St Michael’s and 1130am St John’s Holy communion

Led by Revd Elaine Ryder and David Andrews

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

**Opening hymn**

Ye servants of God,

your Master proclaim,

and publish abroad

his wonderful name;

the name all victorious

of Jesus extol:

his kingdom is glorious,

and rules over all.

God ruleth on high,

almighty to save;

and still he is nigh:

his presence we have:

the great congregation

his triumph shall sing,

ascribing salvation

to Jesus our King.

Salvation to God

who sits on the throne!

let all cry aloud,

and honour the Son.

The praises of Jesus

the angels proclaim,

fall down on their faces,

and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore,

and give him his right:

all glory and power,

all wisdom and might,

and honour and blessing,

with angels above,

and thanks never-ceasing,

and infinite love.

*Charles Wesley*

**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 you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Gloria**  *(Sung)***Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia.** *(Taizé)*

*or*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. 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. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Collect of the day**

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Readings**

**Acts 8.26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: ‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.’ The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**Psalm 22.24-30**

He did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

**From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.**  
The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live for ever!

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.**  
For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

**To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.**  
Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

**Glory to God, Source of all being,**  
**Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be forever. Amen.**

**1 John 4.7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**Gradual hymn**

A new commandment

I give unto you:

that you love one another

as I have loved you,

that you love one another

as I have loved you.

By this the world shall know

that you are my disciples

if you have love one for another.

By this the world shall know

that you are my disciples

if you have love one for another.

*Anonymous © Paul Leddington Wright*

**Gospel**

**Alleluia.**

*(When the reading is announced, we say)*  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

**John 15.1-8**

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

*(At the end)*  
Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.  
**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

**Sermon**

**Nicene creed**

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who 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**

**The peace**We meet in Christ’s name.  
**Let us share his peace.**

**Offertory hymn**

My God, I love thee; not because

I hope for heaven thereby,

nor yet because who love thee not

are lost eternally.

Thou, O my Jesus, thou didst me

upon the Cross embrace;

for me didst bear the nails and spear,

and manifold disgrace.

And griefs and torments numberless,

and sweat of agony;

yea, death itself - and all for me

who was thine enemy.

Then why, O blessed Jesu Christ,

should I not love thee well?

Not for the sake of winning heaven,

nor of escaping hell.

Not from the hope of gaining aught,

not seeking a reward;

but as thyself halt loved me,

O ever-loving Lord.

So would I love thee, dearest Lord,

and in thy praise will sing;

solely because thou art my God,

and my most loving King.

*Edward Caswall*

**Liturgy of the sacrament**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 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, Author of all being. Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world. You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order and filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. He lives in us that we may walk in light.

Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

*(Sung)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth

are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he, O blessed is he

who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*(Please feel free to sit)*

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter

glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery shone clear that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, greeting fishermen on the shore, he renewed the promise of his presence and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which slaves walked free, 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 living bread is broken   
for the life of the world.  
**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:  
**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.**

**Lamb of God, you take away   
the sins of the world:   
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away   
the sins of the world:   
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away   
the sins of the world:   
grant us peace.**

**The communion**

## **Thanksgiving**

God of love, in this eucharist we have heard your truth and shared in your life. May we always walk in your way, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

Give thanks to our gracious God,  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

**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 blood live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life 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.**

**Blessing**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Closing hymn**  
To God be the glory, great things he has done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son.

who yielded his life in atonement for sin,

and opened the life-gate that all may go in:

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;*

*and give him the glory – great things he has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

To every believer the promise of God!

And every offender who truly believes,

that moment from Jesus a pardon receives:

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,

and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

but purer, and higher, and greater will be

our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see:

*Frances Jane van Alstyne*

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

**Notices**

**Next Sunday** services will be led by Revd Peter Davey.

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