**Note: 2 February is below on p7ff**

**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**26 January 2025 — Third Sunday after Epiphany**

9.45am at St Michael’s and 11.30am at St John’s led by Revd David Gordon

All baptised Christians are welcome to share in communion with us

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

**Opening hymn**

The people that in darkness sat

a glorious light have seen;

the light has shined on them who long

in shades of death have been.

To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,

the gathering nations come;

they joy as when the reapers bear

their harvest treasures home.

For thou their burden dost remove,

and break the tyrant’s rod,

as in the day when Midian fell

before the sword of God.

For unto us a Child is born,

to us a Son is given,

and on his shoulder ever rests

all power in earth and heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,

the everlasting Lord,

the Wonderful, the Counsellor,

the God by all adored.

His righteous government and power

shall over all extend;

on judgement and on justice based,

his reign shall have no end.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray;

and make us thiine alone,

who with the Father ever art

and Holy Spirit One.

*J Morison*

**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, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Readings**

**Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10**

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, ‘Amen, Amen’, lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, ‘This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.’ For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.’

**Psalm 19**

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
**Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.**  
There is no speech, nor are there words;  
heir voice is not heard;  
**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.  
**Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the Lord are sure,  making wise the simple;  
**the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;**the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true  
and righteous altogether.  
**More to be desired are they than gold,**

**even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey,**

**and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.  
**But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.**  
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

**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 Corinthians 12.12-31a**

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

**Gradual hymn**

The kingdom of God is justice and joy,

for Jesus restores what sin would destroy.

God’s power and glory in Jesus we know,

and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,

the prisoners are freed, the sinners find place,

the outcast are welcomed God’s banquet to share,

and hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,

believe the good news, repent and rejoice!

His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,

our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God’s kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,

in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;

the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,

and all things cry glory to God all in all!

*Bryn Rees © Alexander Scott*

**Gospel**

*(The acclamation may be sung)*

**Alleluia**

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

**Luke 4.14-21**

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me  to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,  to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

*(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**

Father, Lord of all creation,

ground of Being, Life and Love;

height and depth beyond description

only life in you can prove:

you are mortal life's dependence:

thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;

yours is every hour's existence,

sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the Man for Others,

we, your people, make our prayer:

help us love - as sisters, brothers -

all whose burdens we can share.

Where your name binds us together

you, Lord Christ, will surely be;

where no selfishness can sever

there your love the world may see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning

wind and flame of Pentecost,

fire our hearts afresh with yearning

to regain what we have lost.

May your love unite our action,

nevermore to speak alone:

God, in us abolish faction,

God, through us your love make known.

*Stewart Cross © Mrs M Cross*

**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, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your only begotten Son, you have revealed yourself to the world. By the leading of a star, you made him known to the nations as the son of David and king of Israel; that in following him, we might be led from darkness into his marvellous light.

Filled with the Spirit, who descended upon your Son at his Baptism in the Jordan, we who are baptised in his name strive for his heavenly kingdom in whose radiance we are transfigured and the earth transformed. 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:

*(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)*

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us. Our hope is built on him in whom you are well pleased. Having been shown to the world as your beloved Son, he proclaimed the good news of your kingdom. The blind received their sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, and the captives set free. At his word, water became wine, the hungry were filled with bread, and the dead were raised.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, desiring to complete the work for which he came into the world, 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.**

**Breaking of the bread**

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.  
**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

**Lord’s prayer**

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.**

**Communion**

**Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, our hands have taken holy things; our lives have been nourished by the body of your Son. May we who have eaten at this holy table be strengthened for service in your world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

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

**Loving God, your steadfast purpose is the completion of all things in your Son. May we who have received the pledges of the kingdom, live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Blessing**Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; 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**

O for a thousand tongues to sing

my dear Redeemer's praise,

my dear Redeemer's praise,

the glories of my God and King,

the triumphs of his grace,

the triumphs of his grace,

the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,

that bids our sorrows cease,

that bids our sorrows cease;

'tis music in the sinner's ears,

'tis life and health and peace. *(x3)*

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,

he sets the prisoner free,

he sets the prisoner free;

his blood can make the foulest dean;

his blood availed for me. *(x3)*

He speaks; and, listening to his voice,

new life the dead receive,

new life the dead receive;

the mournful broken hearts rejoice,

the humble poor believe. *(x3)*

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,

your loosened tongues employ,

your loosened tongues employ;

ye blind, behold your Saviour come;

and leap, ye lame, for joy! *(x3)*

My gracious Master and my God,

assist me to proclaim,

assist me to proclaim

and spread through all the earth abroad

the honours of thy name. *(x3)*

*Charles Wesley*

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

**Notices**

**Next Sunday** the service will be led by Revd David Gordon

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**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**2 February 2025 — The Presentation of the Lord**

9.45am at St Michael’s and 11.30am at St John’s led by Revd David Gordon

All baptised Christians are welcome to share in communion with us

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

**Opening hymn**

*Fling wide the gates, unbar the ancient doors;  
salute your king in his triumphant cause!*

Now all the world belongs to Christ our Lord:  
let all creation greet the living Word!

Who has the right to worship him today?  
All those who gladly serve him and obey.

He comes to save all those who trust his name,  
and will declare them free from guilt and shame.

Who is the victor glorious from the fight?  
He is our king, our life, our Lord, our right!  
*Michael Perry © Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns*

**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**  
**Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have sent us your salvation. Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to recognsie him who is the glory of Israel and the light for all nations, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Readings**

**Malachi 3.1-4**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

**Psalm 84**

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!  
**My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
**Happy are those who live in your house,  
ever singing your praise.**  
Happy are those whose strength is in you,  
 in whose heart are the highways to Zion.  
**As they go through the valley of Baca   
 they make it a place of springs;  
 the early rain also covers it with pools.**They go from strength to strength;  
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

**O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob!**  
Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed.

**For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.**  
For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favour and honour. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.  
**O Lord of hosts,  
 happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

**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.**

**Hebrews 2.14-18**

Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

**Gradual hymn**

Faithful vigil ended,

watching, waiting cease;

Master, grant your servant

his discharge in peace.

All the Spirit promised,

all the Father willed,

now these eyes behold it

perfectly fulfilled.

This your great deliverance

sets your people free;

Christ their light uplifted

all the nations see.

Christ, your people's glory!

watching, doubting cease;

grant to us your servants

our discharge in peace.

*© Timothy Dudley-Smith*

**Gospel**

*(The acclamation may be sung)*

**Alleluia**

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

**Luke 2.22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

*(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**

Hail to the Lord who comes,

comes to his temple gate!

Not with his angel host,

Not in his kingly state;

No shouts proclaim him nigh,

No crowds his coming wait.

But borne upon the throne

of Mary’s gentle breast,

watched by her duteous love,

in her fond arms at rest;

thus to his Father’s house

he comes, the heavely Guest.

There Joseph at her side

in reverent wonder stands,

and, filled with holy joy,

old Simeon in his hands

takes up the prompted child,

the glory of all lands.

Hail to the great First-born,

whose ransom price they pay,

the Son before all worlds,

the Child of man today,

that he might ransom us

who still in bondage lay.

O Light of all the earth,

thy children wait for thee:

come to thy temples here,

that we, from sin set free,

before thy Father’s face

may all presented be.

*John Ellerton*

**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, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your only begotten Son, you have revealed yourself to the world. By the leading of a star, you made him known to the nations as the son of David and king of Israel; that in following him, we might be led from darkness into his marvellous light.

Filled with the Spirit, who descended upon your Son at his Baptism in the Jordan, we who are baptised in his name strive for his heavenly kingdom in whose radiance we are transfigured and the earth transformed. 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:

*(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)*

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us. Our hope is built on him in whom you are well pleased. Having been shown to the world as your beloved Son, he proclaimed the good news of your kingdom. The blind received their sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, and the captives set free. At his word, water became wine, the hungry were filled with bread, and the dead were raised.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, desiring to complete the work for which he came into the world, 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.**

**Breaking of the bread**

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.  
**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

**Lord’s prayer**

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.**

**Communion**

**Thanksgiving**

God for whom we wait, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon, who did not die till he had welcomed the Messiah. Complete in us your perfect will, that we in Christ may share in your eternal kingdom, for he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

**Loving God, your steadfast purpose is the completion of all things in your Son. May we who have received the pledges of the kingdom, live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Blessing**Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; 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**

New light has dawned, the Son of God is here,  
a holy light no earthly light outshines;  
the light has dawned, the light that casts out fear,  
the light that evil dreads and love defines.

The light of glory shines to angels' song,  
the shepherds run to where a baby lies;  
a servant of the Lord, who waited long,  
acclaims the light to lighten Gentile eyes.

And priestly men sit listening to a boy,  
they see the dawning light within his face.  
such words they hear those Christ-child lips employ!  
amazing words of wisdom, truth and grace.

O Christ, the light who came to us on earth,  
shine through the shadow cast by human sin;  
renew the faith you gave at our new birth,  
destroy the dark, and let your light come in.

*Paul Wigmore © Paul Wigmore/Jubilate Hymns*

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

**Notices**

**Next Sunday** the service will be led by Revd David Gordon

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