**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**23 February 2025 — Seventh 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

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

**Opening hymn**

God is love: let heaven adore him;

God is love: let earth rejoice;

let creation sing before him,

and exalt him with one voice.

He who laid the earth's foundation,

he who spread the heavens above,

he who breathes through all creation,

he is love, eternal Love.

God is love: and he enfoldeth

all the world in one embrace;

with unfailing grasp he holdeth

every child of every race.

And when human hearts are breaking

under sorrow's iron rod,

then they find that self-same aching

deep within the heart of God.

God is love: and though with blindness

sin afflicts the human soul,

God's eternal loving-kindness

guides and heals and makes us whole.

Sin and death and hell shall never

o'er us final triumph gain;

God is love, so love for ever

o'er the universe must reign.

*Timothy Rees © Geoffrey Chapman*

**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, grant us the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we who can do nothing good without you may live according to your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Readings**

**Genesis 45. 3-11,15**

Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come closer to me.’ And they came closer. He said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

**Psalm 37. 1-12,41-42**

Do not fret because of the wicked;
 do not be envious of wrongdoers,
**for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.**

Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
**Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
**He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.

**Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.**For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

**Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;  though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.**But the meek shall inherit the land,
 and delight in abundant prosperity.

**The wicked plot against the righteous,
and gnash their teeth at them.**

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble. **The Lord helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.**

**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 15. 35-38,42-50**

But someone will ask, ‘How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?’ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

**Gradual hymn**

Christ’s is the world in which we move,

Christ’s are the folk we’re summoned to love,

Christ’s is the voice which calls us to care,

and Christ is the one who calls us here.

To the lost Christ shows his face;

to the unloved he gives his embrace;

to those who cry in pain or disgrace,

Christ makes with his friends a

touching place.

Feel for the people we most avoid,

strange or bereaved or never employed;

feel for the women, and feel for the men

who fear their living is all in vain.

Feel for the parents who’ve lost their child,

feel for the women whom men have defiled,

feel for the baby for whom there’s no breast,

and feel for the weary who find no rest.

Feel for the lives by life confused,

riddled with doubt, in loving abused;

feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,

which longs to be pure but fears to begin.

*John Bell and Graham Maule © WGRG*

**Gospel**

*(The acclamation may be sung)*

**Alleluia**

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

**Luke 6. 27-38**

‘I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. ‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.’

*(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**

The Church's one foundation

is Jesus Christ, her Lord;

she is his new creation,

by water and the word;

from heaven he came and sought her

to be his holy bride,

with his own blood he bought her,

and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,

yet one o'er all the earth,

her charter of salvation,

one Lord, one faith, one birth;

one holy name she blesses,

partakes one holy food,

and to one hope she presses,

with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder

we see her sore oppressed,

by schisms rent asunder,

by heresies distressed,

yet saints their watch are keeping,

their cry goes up, ‘How long?’

and soon the night of weeping

shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation,

and tumult of her war,

she waits the consummation

of peace for evermore;

till with the vision glorious

her longing eyes are blest,

and the great Church victorious

shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union

with God the Three in One,

and mystic sweet communion

with those whose rest is won:

O happy ones and holy!

Lord, give us grace that we

like them, the meek and lowly,

on high may dwell with thee.

*Samuel John Stone*

**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**

Faithful God, as we are nourished by heavenly food, may we live according to your will and show the fruits of your love. 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**The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep *your* hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: 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**

We have a gospel to proclaim,

good news for all throughout the earth;

the gospel of a Saviour's name:

we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem -

not in a royal house or hall,

but in a stable dark and dim,

the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,

hated by those he came to save;

in lonely suff'ring on the cross:

for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn,

empty the tomb, for he was free;

he broke the pow'r of death and hell

that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,

by all creation glorified.

He sends his Spirit on his Church

to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

This gospel-message we proclaim:

we sing his glory, tell his worth.

*© Edward Joseph Burns*

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

**Notices**

**Today Lunch at the Cocoa Tree** after the St John's service. This is to thank Sophie and her staff for giving out the Cave keys, in particular after the recent barrage of visitors prompted by an online 'influencer'.  You pay your own bill.

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

**Wednesday 5 March** 10.30am Joint Ash Wednesday service at St John’s

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