**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**16 March 2025 —Second Sunday in Lent**

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**

New every morning is the love

our wakening and uprising prove;

through sleep and darkness safely brought,

restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,

hover around us while we pray;

new perils past, new sins forgiven,

new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

If on our daily course our mind

be set to hallow all we find,

new treasures still, of countless price,

God will provide for sacrifice.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love

fit us for perfect rest above;

and help us, this and every day,

to live more nearly as we pray.

*John Keble*

**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.**

**Summary of the law**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.”

The second is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.  
**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

*(Sung)*

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.**

Christe eleison. **Christe eleison.**

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.**

**Absolution**

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.**

**Collect of the day**  
**God of patience and humility, in your love you gave your Son to be rejected and raised up on a cross. Gather us under its shadow and open our eyes to its mystery, that we may share even now in the life that is from above; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Readings**

**Genesis 15.1-12,17-18**

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ But the word of the Lord came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’ But he said, ‘O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.

**Psalm 27**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me  
to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—  
 they shall stumble and fall.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

One thing I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord,  
and to inquire in his temple.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Now my head is lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,  
be gracious to me and answer me!  
‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’  
Your face, Lord, do I seek.  
Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

You have been my help.  
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!  
If my father and mother forsake me,  
the Lord will take me up.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Teach me your way, O Lord,  
and lead me on a level path  
because of my enemies.  
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they are breathing out violence.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord!

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

**Philippians 3.17-4.1**

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

**Gradual hymn**

Safe in the hands of God who made me,  
what can there be that I should fear?  
God is my light and my salvation,  
strong is his help when foes are near.

This I have prayed and will seek after,  
that I may walk with God each day;  
then will he give me his protection,  
no trouble shall my heart dismay.

God of my life, my Lord, my master,  
father and mother now to me:  
come, shield me from the threat of evil,  
open your hands and set me free!

Teach me your way and lead me onwards,  
save me from those who do me wrong;  
give me the grace to wait with patience,  
help me to trust, hold firm, be strong.

*Michael Perry © Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns*

**Gospel**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke*.*  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

**Luke 13.31-35**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” ’

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**

O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray

that all thy Church might be for ever one,

grant us at every eucharist to say,

with longing heart and soul, `Thy will be done.'

O may we all one bread, one body be,

through this blest sacrament of unity.

For all thy Church, O Lord, we intercede;

make thou our sad divisions soon to cease;

draw us the nearer each to each, we plead,

by drawing all to thee, O Prince of Peace:

thus may we all one bread, one body be,

through this blest sacrament of unity.

We pray thee too for wanderers from thy fold;

O bring them back, good Shepherd of the sheep,

back to the faith which saints believed of old,

back to the Church which still that faith doth keep;

soon may we all one bread, one body be,

through this blest sacrament of unity.

So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,

may we be one with all thy Church above,

one with thy saints in one unbroken peace,

one with thy saints in one unbounded love;

more blessed still, in peace and love to be

one with the Trinity in unity.

*William Harry Turton © Copyright control*

**Liturgy of the sacrament**

**Prayers of offering**

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.**

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, maker of light and darkness. Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos, brings a harvest out of sorrow and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven and strangers made welcome.

Your Spirit frees us to live as sons and daughters in our Father's house.

We who by Christ's power follow the way of the Cross, sharing the joy of his obedience, now 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, for Christ in whom the world is reconciled. Lifted on the Cross, his suffering and forgiveness spanned the gulf our sins had made.

Through that dark struggle death was swallowed up in victory, that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which the sons of Egypt died, your Chosen One, himself the First-Born, freely offered his life.

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 Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,** **as we forgive those** **who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation,** **but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,** **the power and the glory,** **for ever and 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.**

**Invitation to communion**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Let us draw near with confidence and faith

for all are welcome at the Table of the Lord.

**Communion**

**Thanksgiving**

Creator of heaven and earth, we thank you for these holy mysteries, which bring us now a share in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our 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 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.**

**Blessing**Christ give *you* grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up *your* cross, and follow him; 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**

There's a wideness in God's mercy,

like the wideness of the sea;

there's a kindness in his justice,

which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows

are more felt than up in heaven;

there is no place where earth's failings

have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader

than the scope of human mind,

and the heart of the Eternal

is most wonderfully kind.

 But we make his love too narrow

by false limits of our own;

and we magnify his strictness

with a zeal he will not own.

There is grace enough for thousands

of new worlds as great as this;

there is room for fresh creations

in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,

we should take him at his word;

and our lives would be all gladness

in the joy of Christ our Lord.

*Frederick William Faber*

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

**Notices**

**Next Sunday** the service at St Michael’s will be led by Revd David Gordon at St John’s by Very Revd Dr Graham Forbes CBE

**Tuesdays** 7.00pm St John’s and Pittenweem Kirk Lent course session on forgiveness on Zoom

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