**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**30 March 2025 —Fourth Sunday in Lent - Mothering Sunday**

10.30am Joint service 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**

I will sing the wondrous story

of the Christ who died for me,

how he left the realms of glory

for the cross on Calvary.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story

of the Christ who died for me -

sing it with his saints in glory,

gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost but Jesus found me,

found the sheep that went astray,

raised me up and gently led me

back into the narrow way.

Days of darkness still may meet me,

sorrow's path I oft may tread;

but his presence still is with me,

by his guiding hand I'm led.

He will keep me till the river

rolls its waters at my feet:

then he'll bear me safely over,

made by grace for glory meet.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story

of the Christ who died for me -

sing it with his saints in glory,

gathered by the crystal sea.

*Francis Harold Rowley © Harper Colins Religious*

**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**
**Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Readings**

**Joshua 5.9-12**

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.’ And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

**Psalm 32**

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

**You, O Lord, are my hiding-place.**

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
**You, O Lord, are my hiding-place.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’,
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
**You, O Lord, are my hiding-place.**

Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
You are a hiding-place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
**You, O Lord, are my hiding-place.**

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

**You, O Lord, are my hiding-place.**

Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

**You, O Lord, are my hiding-place.**

**2 Corinthians 5.16-21**

From now on we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Gradual hymn**

Amazing grace - how sweet the sound

that saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now I'm found;

was blind, but now I see.

'God’s grace has taught my heart to fear,

his grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear

the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares

I have already come.

God’s grace that brought me safe thus far,

and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,

his word my hope secures;

he will my shield and portion be

as long as life endures.

And, when this heart and flesh shall fail

and mortal life shall cease,

I shall possess within the veil

a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,

bright shining as the sun,

we've no less days to sing God's praise

than when we first begun.

*John Newton*

**Gospel**

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

**Luke 15.1-3,11b-32**

All the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So Jesus told them this parable: ‘There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.” So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ ” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate. ‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.” ’

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**

For the beauty of the earth,

for the beauty of the skies,

for the love which from our birth

over and around us lies:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise*

*this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour

of the day and of the night,

hill and vale and tree and flower,

sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of human love,

brother, sister, parent, child,

friends on earth, and friends above,

pleasures pure and undefiled:

For each perfect gift of thine,

to our race so freely given,

graces human and divine,

flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

For thy Church which evermore

lifteth holy hands above,

offering up on every shore

her pure sacrifice of love:

*Folliot Sandford Pierpoint*

**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**

Giver of life, you enlighten all who come into the world. Fill our hearts with the splendour of your grace, that we may perfectly love you and worthily praise your holy name; through 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 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**

Now thank we all our God,

with hearts and hands and voices,

who wondrous things hath done,

in whom his world rejoices;

who from our mother's arms

hath blessed us on our way

with countless gifts of love,

and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God

through all our life be near us,

with ever joyful hearts

and blessed peace to cheer us;

and keep us in his grace,

and guide us when perplexed,

and free us from all ills

in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God

the Father now be given,

the Son and him who reigns

with them in highest heaven,

the one eternal God,

whom earth and heaven adore;

for thus it was, is now,

and shall be evermore.

*Martin Rinkart*

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

**Notices**

**Next Sunday** services will be led by Rt Revd Ian Paton

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

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