**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**6 April 2025 —Fifth Sunday in Lent**

9.45am at St Michael’s and 11.30am at St John’s led by Rt Rev Ian Paton

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**

We sing the praise of him who died,

of him who died upon the cross;

the sinner's hope, though all deride,

will turn to gain this bitter loss.

Inscribed upon the cross we see

in shining letters, 'God is love’;

he bears our sins upon the tree;

he brings us mercy from above.

The cross! it takes our guilt away:

it holds the fainting spirit up;

it cheers with hope the gloomy day,

and sweetens every bitter cup.

It makes the coward spirit brave

to face the darkness of the night;

it takes the terror from the grave,

and gilds the bed of death with light.

The balm of life, the cure of woe,

the measure and the pledge of love,

the sinner's refuge here below,

the angels' theme in heaven above.

*Thomas Kelly*

**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.**

*Ukraine*

**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**  
**Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you created humanity anew. May the power of his victorious cross transform those who turn in faith to him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Readings**

**Isaiah 43.16-21**

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

**Psalm 126**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

**The Lord has done great things for us.**

Then it was said among the nations,  
‘The Lord has done great things for them.’  
The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.

**The Lord has done great things for us.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.  
May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.  
Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.

**The Lord has done great things for us.**

**Philippians 3.4b-14**

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

**Gradual hymn**

Here is love vast as the ocean,

loving kindness as the flood.

When the Prince of Life, our ransom,

shed for us his precious blood.

Who his love will not remember?

Who can cease to sing his praise?

He can never be forgotten,

throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion

fountains opened deep and wide;

through the floodgates of God's mercy

flowed a vast and gracious tide.

Grace and love, like mighty rivers,

poured incessant from above,

and heaven's peace and perfect justice

kissed a guilty world in love.

*William Rees*

**Gospel**

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

**John 12.1-8**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ‘Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?’ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, ‘Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.’

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**

It is a thing most wonderful,

almost too wonderful to be,

that God's own Son should come from heaven,

and die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true:

he chose a poor and humble lot,

and wept and toiled, and mourned and died,

for love of those who loved him not.

I cannot tell how he could love

a child so weak and full of sin;

his love must be most wonderful,

if he could die my love to win.

I sometimes think about the cross,

and shut my eyes, and try to see

the cruel nails and crown of thorns,

and Jesus crucified for me.

But even could I see him die,

I could but see a little part

of that great love which, like a fire,

is always burning in his heart.

It is most wonderful to know

his love for me so free and sure;

but 'tis more wonderful to see

my love for him so faint and poor.

And yet I want to love thee, Lord;

O light the flame within my heart,

and I will love thee more and more,

until I see thee as thou art.

*William Walsh How*

**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**

Merciful God, you have called us to your table and fed us with the bread of life. Draw us and all people to your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **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 crucified draw *you* to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; 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**

Go forth and tell!

Church of God, awake!

God's saving news

to all the nations take:

proclaim Christ Jesus,

Saviour, Lord and King,

that all the world

his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell!

God's love embraces all;

he will in grace

respond to all who call;

how shall they call

if they have never heard

the gracious invitation

of his word?

Go forth and tell!

where still the darkness lies;

in wealth or want,

the sinner surely dies:

give us, O Lord,

concern of heart and mind,

a love like yours

which cares for humankind.

Go forth and tell!

the doors are open wide:

share God's good gifts

let no one be denied;

live out your life

as Christ your Lord shall choose,

your ransomed powers

for his sole glory use.

*James Edward Seddon © The representatives of the late James Edward Seddon / Jubilate Hymns*

**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 Revd David Gordon

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

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