**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**18 May 2025 —Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Opening hymn**

Alleluia, alleluia,

hearts to heaven and voices raise;

sing to God a hymn of gladness,

sing to God a hymn of praise:

he who on the cross a victim

for the world's salvation bled,

Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,

now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits

of the holy harvest field,

which will all its full abundance

at his second coming yield;

then the golden ears of harvest

will their heads before him wave,

ripened by his glorious sunshine,

from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen;

shed upon us heavenly grace,

rain, and dew, and gleams of glory

from the brightness of thy face;

that we, with our hearts in heaven,

here on earth may fruitful be,

and by angel-hands be gathered,

and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia, alleluia,

glory be to God on high;

alleluia to the Saviour,

who has gained the victory;

alleluia to the Spirit,

fount of love and sanctity;

alleluia, alleluia,

to the Triune Majesty.

*Christopher Wordsworth*

**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 in excelsis**

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis, in excelsis*

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Peace on earth to all your people,

Lord God, heavenly King.

We worship you, almighty Father,

let our voices ring! Sing:

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis, in excelsis*

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Jesus, blessed Lamb of God,

to you our voice we raise.

You take away our sins, O Lord,

receive our song of praise! Sing:

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis, in excelsis*

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Holy Lord in highest heaven,

how our hearts rejoice

in God the Father, Son and Spirit,

so with loudest voice sing:

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis, in excelsis*

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.*

**Collect of the day**

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Readings**

**Acts 11.1-18**

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, ‘Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?’ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,‘I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” But I replied, “By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.” But a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, “Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.” And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

**Psalm 148**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!  
Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!  
**Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.**

Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.  
He established them for ever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,  
fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!  
Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!

**Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!  
Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.  
**Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.**

He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the Lord!

**Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.**

**Revelation 21.1-6**

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples  
and God himself will be with them;he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’ And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

**Gradual hymn**

Brother, sister, let me serve you,

let me be as Christ to you;

pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,

fellow travellers on the road;

we are here to help each other

walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you

in the night-time of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you,

speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;

when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow

till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,

we shall find such harmony,

born of all we've known together

of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,

let me be as Christ to you;

pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my servant, too.

*Richard Gillard © Scripture in Song*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Gospel**

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

**John 13.31-35**

When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

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**

All for Jesus! All for Jesus!

This our song shall ever be;

for we have no hope nor Saviour

if we have not hope in thee.

All for Jesus! thou wilt give us

strength to serve thee hour by hour;

none can move us from thy presence

while we trust thy love and power.

All for Jesus! at thine altar

thou dost give us sweet content;

there, dear Saviour, we receive thee

in thy holy sacrament.

All for Jesus! thou hast loved us,

all for Jesus! thou hast died,

all for Jesus! thou art with us,

all for Jesus, glorified!

All for Jesus! All for Jesus!

This the Church's song shall be,

till at last the flock is gathered

one in love, and one in thee.

*William John Sparrow-Simpson*

*© Novello & Co. Ltd*

**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, Author of all being. Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world. You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order and filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. He lives in us that we may walk in light.

Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, 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)*

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery shone clear that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, greeting fishermen on the shore, he renewed the promise of his presence and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which slaves walked free, 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.**

**Invitation to communion**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia, alleluia.

**Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Communion**

**Thanksgiving**

God of love, in this eucharist we have heard your truth and shared in your life. May we always walk in your way, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

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

**Father, we have broken the bread which is Christ’s body, we have tasted the wine of his new life. We thank you for these gifts by which we are made one in him and drawn into that new creation which is your will for all the world; through him who died for us and rose again, your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.** **Amen.**

**Blessing**The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make *you* perfect in every good work; working in *you* that which is pleasing and good; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon *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 power 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**  
Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

alleluia, alleluia.

**In the name of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Notices**

**Today 12.30pm Consultation meeting** on the redevelopment of St John’s

**Next Sunday** services will be led by Revd David Gordon. St John’s 220th anniversary when Wendy Chamberlain MP will join us. Weekend includes children’s art exhibition

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