**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**31 March 2024—Easter**

945am St Michael’s and 1130am St John’s Holy communion

led by Revd Elaine Ryder

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Grace and peace to you from God our

Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**. Amen**.

**Blessing of the paschal candle**

*The Easter candle, which will burn*

*during public worship until Ascension Day, symbolises the risen Lord, who is the Pillar of Fire, guiding the people of God out of their bondage to sin through the wilderness of a fallen world into the promised land of*

*heaven.*

*The Priest marks out the candle:*

Christ yesterday and today

The beginning and the end

Alpha

And Omega

His are the seasons

And his are the ages

To him be glory and dominion

Through all the ages of eternity.

**Amen.**

*The Priest lights the candle:*

The light of Christ in glory rising

dispel the darkness of each heart and mind.

*The Priest blesses the candle*:

Almighty God, who art thyself unseen

and yet renewest all things, shed forth upon this lighted candle the

abundance of thy blessing, and make more splendid still the brightness of this day. May our offering shine more radiantly through the presence of thy hidden glory; and may this light shine in our hearts, to drive out the hidden deeds of darkness and make manifest the power of thy majesty; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The candle is set on its stand:*

Behold: the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God**.

**Opening hymn**

Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!

our triumphant holy day, alleluia!

who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!

suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing,

alleluia!

unto Christ, our heavenly King,

alleluia!

who endured the cross and grave,

alleluia!

sinners to redeem and save, alleluia!

But the pains that he endured, alleluia! our salvation have procured; alleluia! now above the sky he's King, alleluia! where the angels ever sing, alleluia!

*Lyra Davidica*

**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**

**Lord of life and power, through the mighty resurrection of your Son you have overcome the old order of sin and death and have made all things new in him. May we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, reign with him in glory, who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Readings**

**Acts 10. 34-43**

Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

**1 Corinthians 15. 1-11**

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

**Gradual hymn**

Now the green blade rises

from the buried grain,

wheat that in the dark earth

many days has lain;

Love lives again,

that with the dead has been:

*Love is come again,*

*like wheat that springs up green.*

In the grave they laid him,

Love by hatred slain,

thinking that he never

would awake again,

laid in the earth

like grain that sleeps unseen:

Forth he came at Easter,

like the risen grain,

he that for three days

in the grave had lain;

quick from the dead,

my risen Lord is seen:

When our hearts are wintry,

Grieving, or in pain,

Then your touch can call us

back to life again;

fields of our hearts,

that dead and bare have been:

*John Macleod Campbell Crum © 1928 Oxford University Press*

**Gospel**

**John 20. 1-18**

*When the reading is announced, we say*

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” ’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

*At the end*

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

**Praise to Christ our Lord**.

**Sermon**

**Intercessions**

**Renewal of baptismal vows**

As we celebrate the mystery of our Lord’s death and resurrection, let us come before God in penitence, praying that God’s image in us may be restored, and that we may be renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit.

 I ask you, therefore: Do you place your faith in God, who created the world, and in whose image you are made?

**We do.**

Do you place your hope in Jesus Christ, who died for you and was raised from the dead?

**We do.**

Do you place your trust in God’s Holy Spirit, who empowers and directs your life in accordance with God’s will?

**We do.**

Do you repent of the sin which has separated you from God, and marred God’s image in you?

**We repent.**

Do you accept again the cleansing from the power of sin, which you first received in your Baptism?

**We do.**

**Profession of faith**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father**

**almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**and born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

Having professed your faith:

Will you model your life on the

example of your Lord, Jesus Christ?

**With the help of God, we will**.

Will you take up your cross, and follow Christ?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you seek to serve God and God’s people, and not only to be served?

**We will, after the example of Christ.**

Will you recognise in others the image of God in which you and they are made?

**We will, after the example of Christ.**

Will you be faithful in worship, in

reading holy Scripture, and in prayer?

**We will, by the grace of God’s Holy Spirit.**

Will you use your gifts in the service of Christ’s Body, the Church?

**We will, by the grace of God’s Holy Spirit.**

God of mercy and love, new birth by water and the Spirit is your gift, a gift none can take away; grant that your servants may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ. Fill us with the joy of your presence. Increase in us the fruit of your Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of love, patience and gentleness, the spirit of wonder and true holiness. Renew our lives in Christ and bring to completion

all that your calling has begun. **Amen**.

**The peace**

Renewed in the Spirit, we meet in Christ's name;

**Let us share his peace.**

**Offertory hymn**

Love's redeeming work is done;

fought the fight, the battle won:

lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,

lo, he sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell; death in vain forbids his rise;

Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;

where, O death, is now thy sting?

Dying once, he all doth save;

Where’s thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,

following our exalted Head;

made like him, like him we rise;

ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! praise to thee by both be given;

thee we greet triumphant now;

hail, the Resurrection thou!

*Charles Wesley*

**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, 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.**

The living bread is broken
for the life of the world.
**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

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.**

**The communion**

**Thanksgiving**

God of life, bring us to the glory of the resurrection promised in this Easter sacrament. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

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 blood live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life 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**

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 to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; 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**

Thine be the glory,

risen, conquering Son,

endless is the victory

thou o'er death hast won;

angels in bright raiment

rolled the stone away,

kept the folded grave-clothes

where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory,*

*risen, conquering Son,*

*endless is the victory*

*thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us,

risen from the tomb;

lovingly he greets us,

scatters fear and gloom.

Let the Church with gladness

hymns of triumph sing,

for her Lord now liveth;

death hast lost its sting.

No more we doubt thee,

glorious Prince of Life!

Life is naught without thee:

aid us in our strife.

Make us more than conquerors

through thy deathless love.

Bring us safe through Jordan

to thy home above.

*Edmond Budry*

*Notices may be given.*

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

**Notices**

**Next Sunday** services will be led by Very Revd Dr Graham Forbes CBE.

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