**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**10 December 2023 Advent 2**

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

led by Revd Elaine Ryder

Grace and peace to you from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Advent candle prayer**

*Hope for all God’s people*

We light this candle for all God’s prophets,

confronting justice and restoring the dream

of a world of freedom and peace.

**God, as we wait for your promise,**

**give light, give hope.**

*Jan Berry*

**Opening Hymn**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

most blessèd, most glorious,

the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious,

thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,

nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might -

thy justice like mountains high soaring above

thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;

in all life thou livest, the true life of all;

we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,

and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,

thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;

all laud we would render, O help us to see

'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

*Walter Chalmers Smith*

**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 us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Spoken or sung:*

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*or*

Kyrie eleison.

**Kyrie eleison.**

Christe eleison.

**Christe eleison.**

Kyrie eleison.

**Kyrie eleison.**

**Collect**

**Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Readings**

**Isaiah 40.1-11**

OComfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: ‘In the

wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ A voice says, ‘Cry out!’ And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’ All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**Psalm 85.1-2,8-13**

Lord, you were favourable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
**You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.**
Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

**Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.**
The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
**Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.**

**Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever. Amen.**

**2 Peter 3.8-15a**

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the

patience of our Lord as salvation.

**Gradual hymn**

The Lord will come, and not be slow;

his footsteps cannot err;

before him righteousness shall go,

his royal harbinger.

Truth from the earth, like to a flower,

shall bud and blossom then;

and justice, from her heavenly bower,

look down on mortals all.

Surely to such as do him fear

salvation is at hand;

and glory shall ‘ere long appear

to dwell within our land.

Rise, Lord, judge thou the earth in might,

this wicked earth redress;

for thou art he who shall by right

the nations all possess.

The nations all whom thou hast made

shall come, and all shall frame

for thou art he who shall by right

the nations all possess.

For great thou art, and wonders great

by thy strong hand are done;

thou in thine everlasting seat

remainest God alone.

*John Milton*

**Gospel**

*(When the reading is announced, we say)*
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

**Mark 1.1-8**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”’, John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

*(At the end)*
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**
*(Prayer is offered: for the world and its*

*people, for those who suffer and those in need, for the Church and its members)*

**The Peace**We meet in Christ’s name.
**Let us share his peace.

Offertory Hymn**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch take heart!

*Taizé*

**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, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Dawn and evening celebrate our glory

till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined, sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your threefold likeness look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured and the earth

transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose who await the coming of your Son, 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)*

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus you showed us yourself. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, he opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, 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**

*An appropriate sentence may be said.*

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

**Loving God, your steadfast purpose is the completion of all things in your Son. May we who have received the pledges of the**

**kingdom, live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Blessing**Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; 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**
Praise him, praise him, Jesus our blessed Redeemer!

Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim!

Hail him, hail him! highest archangels in glory;

strength and honour give to his holy name!

Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his children,

in his arms he carries them all day long.

*Praise him, praise him! tell of his excellent greatness;*

*Praise him, praise him! ever in joyful song!*

Praise him, praise him, Jesus our blessed Redeemer!

for our sins he suffered, and bled, and died;

he our rock, our hope of eternal salvation,

hail him, hail him, Jesus the crucified!

Praise him, praise him, Jesus our blessed Redeemer!

heavenly portals, loud with hosannas ring!

Jesus, Saviour, reigns for ever and ever:

crown him, crown him, Prophet, and Priest, and King.

*Frances van Alstyne*

*Notices may be given.*

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

**Services** are led by Revd Elaine Ryder.

**Today**

10.45am **Annual Congregational Meeting** at St Michael’s.

12.30pm **Annual Congregational Meeting** at St John’s.

3.00pm **Music at St John’s**: Callum Macleod on the organ.

7.00pm **Anstruther Phil Christmas Concert** in Crail Parish Church. There will be performances of the Fauré

Requiem, the Cantique de Jean Racine, also by Fauré, and the Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Vaughan Williams. Tickets are £10, from choir members or at the door, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the church hall.

**Next Sunday**

**Services** are led by Revd Peter Davey.

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