

# St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy

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Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012, Epiphany 2

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*Introit Hymn:* Let bells peel forth

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

*Collect for Purity:* **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleans 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.**

*Gloria:* **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his 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:* Almighty God, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world. May your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*Collect SPB:* Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth:  
Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy peace all the days of our  
life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*First reading:* 1 Samuel 3. 1-10 (SPB Romans 12. 6)

*Second reading:* 1 Corinthians 6. 12-20

*Gradual hymn:* Lead us heavenly father lead us

*Gospel acclamation:* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the  
message of eternal life. Alleluia!**

*Gospel:* John 1. 43-51 (SPB St John 2.1)

*Homily:*

“You will see greater things than these.”

Like Nathanael, we are all looking for signs. We search high and low, near and far, for some confirmation that God is with us. When really, as Jesus says to Nathanael, we will see greater things, if only we will open the eyes of our hearts.

It can be as easy as listening to a song. Judy Garland, in the 1944 MGM musical “Meet Me in St. Louis,” introduced a song by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blaine called “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas”:

“Have yourself a merry little Christmas,  
Let your heart be light.”

As much as some decry the commercialization of Christmas, in the end, letting our hearts be light is really what it’s all about. And Epiphany is a season of light – a time to reflect on just how our hearts and our lives can be light.

On Christmas Day, the reading from the Gospel of John said: “What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

This Second Sunday of Epiphany, we pray: “Christ is the Light of the World. ... Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ’s glory.”

And on the First Sunday After Christmas, we prayed: “Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives.”

“Enkindle”: to stir up, fire up, inspire, rouse, awaken, ignite, instill, incite! It is all a way of saying that the Incarnation in which the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us – and does so by taking up residence in our hearts – the Light that is the Life of all people resides within us, at our centre. He makes a home in our hearts.

This light of each person is not meant for themselves, but meant for all, that all might see better the other gifts of creation. It is what Jesus talks about when he urges us not to hide this light, not to put it under a bushel, but to put it on a lamp stand so it will give light to the whole household – which in biblical terms always means “the Household of God.”

The word for “household” in Greek is *oiko* – from which we get words such as “economy,” *oiko-nomos*, the law of the household, and “ecology,” *oiko-logie*, study of the household, understood as the environment in which we live.

The idea is that we have all been given the gift of Light, which is the Life of the world, Jesus. And giving it away, letting go of what we already have, is what gives us eternal life in return. It is the Light of Life. This Light is what unites us with God in Christ. And it is meant to give Light and Life to the whole world, everyone, all people.

To hold onto this Light, to hold onto our gifts, results in a world that is upside down from God’s view of things. So God comes to us as Jesus to turn us right-side up again.

We have difficulties with all this. We find it difficult to believe God would give us a gift at all – so we hold onto it for dear life lest God stop giving us his Word, his Sacraments, his Light and his Life.

Little do we suspect what difficulties this holding on causes for others in the household. So much so that others begin to find it difficult to see the Light that shines within them. This causes the entire household to slip into darkness, a return to the darkness that covered the whole of the face of the deep, before God spoke and there was Light.

Yet, we are those people who believe and pray that this Light is already enkindled, instilled, stirred up within all hearts everywhere. We need to believe what we pray and what God's Word and sacraments mean to instill and enkindle in our own hearts.

God is the ground of our being. The relationship between God and creature is such that, by sheer grace, separation is not possible. God does not know how to be absent. God is always at home. It was Meister Eckhart, a 13th-century German theologian, who reminded us that we are the ones who are not at home. We are not at home, even within ourselves.

Know that little by little – it takes time – Jesus will reveal to us how much he is at home with us.

He calls us to follow him  
So that we may do something beautiful with our life and bear much fruit.  
The world needs us, the Church needs us, Jesus needs us.  
They need our love and our Light.  
There is a hidden place in our heart where Jesus lives.  
This is a deep secret we are called to live.  
Let Jesus live in us.  
Go forward with him!

Have yourself a merry little Christmas, a blessed Epiphany season – and let your heart be light.

Amen.

*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 men and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified.  
He 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:* *Composed and prayed on behalf of the congregation by a member of the Intercessors Group*

Everlasting God, You spoke to awaken Samuel with Your call, and so we ask you to open the ears of all your chosen ones. Hear us now as we pray for the church and the world.

**Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

You called Abram to be the father of many nations, and so we pray for the nations of our world and their leaders. We continue to pray for peace in the world and especially for those involved in the process of

reconciliation and bridge-building between peoples, cultures and nations. Help us to be instruments of your peace in our everyday lives.

**Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

You called Moses to be the shepherd who led the Israelites from Egypt, help us all to be worthy pastors of your flock. We pray for our families, our friends and our neighbours. Keep them safe from this pandemic. Guide them to keep the rules which will help to overcome this terrible virus. We pray for all the front line workers who are working relentlessly to support those in need at this time. We give thanks for the vaccine which has been developed.

**Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

You called the Apostles to be ambassadors for Christ and gave them the power to heal. Help us to bring healing by the care we show in our daily lives and in our prayers that we may strengthen the spirits of those we love especially in times of sickness or distress. We pray for the lonely, the homeless, the anxious, the abused and those who feel they have no hope. In a time of quiet, we bring to you our personal prayers.

**Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

Your Son, Jesus Christ, wept at the grave of Lazarus his friend. Be with us in our mourning as pray for all who are coming to the end of their journey here on earth and for all those who have died and now rejoice in the fullness of eternal life. In our Year's Mind we remember Ellen McDerment, Cameron Paul, Ron Leigh, Balfour McGrory. They are but names in a book but in our hearts they are loved and cherished forever. May they rest in peace until we meet again in your eternal kingdom.

**Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

Father God, we rejoice in the call to belong to the Church and to believe in the Gospel. Send us out into the coming week ready to demonstrate our calling in all that we and say.

*Give us humility, O Lord, to accept the limits of our own mortality.  
Give us your Spirit, O Lord, to face it with hope and courage.  
Give us your presence, O Lord, to know that in all things you are before us and above us.  
Give us your peace, O Lord, to see and welcome the gift of each day.  
Surround us, O Lord, with your love and protect us from falling into despair.  
For you are the source and goal of all existence and through Jesus Christ, our salvation and true joy.*

*Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN*

*Confession*

*and Absolution:* God is love and we are his children. There is no room for fear in love.  
We love because he 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.**

(May) God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Peace:* We meet in Christ's Name let us share his peace.

*Offertory hymn:* Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour

*Communion Prayer:* God of infinite mercy. We thank you for Jesus our Saviour who feeds his people and gives them eternal life. Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine we thank you that we do receive Christ's saving presence, the forgiveness of sins and all other benefits of his passion. Grant that we may continue for ever in the risen and ascended life of our Saviour. Amen.

*(This prayer is said during the online Provincial service).*

*The Lord's Prayer* 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.

*Communion hymn:* Dear Lord and father of mankind

*Concluding Prayer:* **Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed: guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this day in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.**

*Blessing:* Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

*Recessional hymn:* Alleluia sing to Jesus

### **7pm Candle Prayer**

**Living God,  
Be with us in the desert place  
And renew us as those who are made in your image.  
Hear us as we call to you  
And answer our cry.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Living God,  
Be with us in the desert place  
And meet us in the place of suffering.  
Hear us as we call to you  
And bring healing to the broken.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Living God,  
Be with us in the desert place  
And come beside those who are sorrowing.  
Hear us as we call to you  
And have compassion upon us.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Living God,  
Be with us in the desert place  
And lead us to the places of discovery and rediscovery.  
Hear us as we call to you  
And reshape the pattern of our lives.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Living God,  
Be with us in the desert place  
And may we know that Christ is with us.  
Hear us as we call to you  
And lead us to the place where we hear your word of affirmation.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**