

# St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy

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Elie

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021 Pentecost 7 (Trinity 6)

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Please print and bring this sheet with you if you are attending the service and wish to follow the readings and sing the hymns. (SPB refers to the Scottish Prayer Book Liturgy for those who follow this service)

*Introit Hymn:* Christ is made the sure foundation

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| <p>1. Christ is made the sure foundation,<br/>And the precious cornerstone<br/>Who, the two walls underlying,<br/>Bound in each, binds both in one,<br/>Holy Sion's help forever,<br/>And her confidence alone.</p> <p>2. All that dedicated city,<br/>Dearly loved by God on high,<br/>In exultant jubilation<br/>Pours perpetual melody;<br/>God the One in Threefold Glory<br/>Singing everlastingly</p> <p>3. To this temple, where we call thee,<br/>Come, O Lord of hosts, today:<br/>With thy wonted loving-kindness</p> | <p>Hear thy people as they pray;<br/>And thy fullest benediction<br/>Shed within its walls alway.</p> <p>4. Here vouchsafe to all thy servants<br/>Gifts of grace by prayer to gain<br/>Here to have and hold forever<br/>These good things their prayers obtain<br/>And hereafter in thy glory<br/>With thy blessed ones to reign.</p> <p>5. Laud and honour to the Father,<br/>Laud and honour to the Son,<br/>Laud and honour to the Spirit,<br/>Ever Three and ever One,<br/>One in might, and One in glory,<br/>While unending ages run.</p> |
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*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:  
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.**

*Gloria:* **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:* Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. May we find peace in your service, and in the world to come, see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*Collect SPB:* O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding; Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire: through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

*First reading:* Amos 7. 7-15 (SPB Romans 6.3)

*Second reading:* Ephesians 1. 3-14

*Gradual hymn:* Christ be our light

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| <p>1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.<br/>Longing for truth, we turn to you.<br/>Make us your own, your holy people,<br/>light for the world to see.<br/>Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.<br/>Shine through the darkness.<br/>Christ, be our light! Shine in your church<br/>gathered today.</p> <p>2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.<br/>Longing for hope, many despair.<br/>Your word alone has power to save us.<br/>Make us your living voice.<br/>Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.<br/>Shine through the darkness.<br/>Christ, be our light! Shine in your church<br/>gathered today.</p> <p>3. Longing for food, many are hungry.<br/>Longing for water, many still thirst.<br/>Make us your bread, broken for others,<br/>shared until all are fed.</p> | <p>Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.<br/>Shine through the darkness.<br/>Christ, be our light! Shine in your church<br/>gathered today.</p> <p>4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.<br/>Longing for warmth, many are cold.<br/>Make us your building, sheltering others,<br/>walls made of living stone.<br/>Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.<br/>Shine through the darkness.<br/>Christ, be our light! Shine in your church<br/>gathered today.</p> <p>5. Many the gifts, many the people,<br/>many the hearts that yearn to belong.<br/>Let us be servants to one another,<br/>making your kingdom come.<br/>Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.<br/>Shine through the darkness.<br/>Christ, be our light! Shine in your church<br/>gathered today.</p> |
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*Gospel acclamation:* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia.**

*Gospel:* Mark 6. 14-29 (St Matthew 5.20)

*When gospel is announced:* **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

*At end:*

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel. **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

*Sermon:* *The Revd Canon Christine Fraser*

Fairytales and happy endings play a significant role in shaping us and our expectations about life. We are inundated from birth by themes and images of the way life “should” play out by the storylines provided us in fictional accounts – in books and in film, in everything from Disney movies to Hollywood blockbusters to popular television and online series. We love keeping up with the weddings, vacations, births, and highlights of the lives of celebrities and the famous – not to mention Britain’s royal family. We’re enchanted by tales of the

underdog and the anti-heroes who get their happy endings. And somewhere in all of this, we formulate a vision for what our own lives should look like.

But real life rarely resembles fairytales and there is never any guarantee of a happy ending. The Bible isn't much for fairytales either, and the story in the sixth chapter of Mark's Gospel is about a royal family that no one envies. King Herod's second wife, Queen Herodias, is portrayed as a conniving and vengeful woman, filled with hatred and the desire for revenge. She ultimately ropes her young daughter into a murder plot against God's chosen, John the Baptist. This story reads more like a horror story than a fairytale, as we read about the presentation of John's head on a platter at her request. We see that King Herod would rather commit murder than appear to be a fool in front of his guests. And John the Baptist's life itself seems rather tragic; John lived a challenging life, was imprisoned unjustly, and then killed horribly and unexpectedly. And yet, Jesus said of him, "Among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist." There are no fairytale endings in the Bible, even for God's chosen servants.

Still, we humans cling so strongly to images of what we think life should be and look like. We still expect happy, fairytale endings and are often perplexed when our lives hand us something very different. And we are, in fact, so committed to these fairytales and to projecting images of success and happiness, that many of us intentionally project images of our lives to others that are not only highly edited, but sometimes completely false.

We know intellectually that what is projected doesn't tell the whole story, and yet research shows that spending time on social media often causes or increases anxiety in people because we inevitably compare our lives to what we are seeing portrayed publicly and then end up feeling that our lives fall short.

Life doesn't have to be less than a fairytale to disappoint us, either. If our life is not going the way we expected or hoped it would or even if it has veered far from the way we had imagined it, we're not alone. Perhaps we've been sidelined by an injury or illness, a death, a loss, a divorce or broken relationship, or maybe something distressing has happened to our children or someone we love. We may be filled with a sense of disillusionment, anger, grief, heartache, sorrow, or confusion. We may wonder, "Why?" "What went wrong?" We may even despair of life itself.

There are people who can teach us a different way to approach life, however – people whose lives look nothing like a fairytale – people whose lives are not in any way conventional, but who find deep joy and purpose. You probably know someone who has suffered great loss and whose life did not play out as they had hoped, but still, they find joy and a deeper purpose despite it all. Often, these people have found meaning beyond the expected storylines of their culture and are people of faith. John the Baptist is just one example among many from the Bible, along with the many saints and faithful who offer different scripts – alternatives to the lives prescribed by Hollywood, Disney, social media, or even our cultural traditions. This script is God's script, and it follows God's purpose and calling on our lives instead.

As people of faith who follow Jesus, this is exactly where our deepest hopes and dreams are to be rooted, in what St. Paul describes in our epistle today as the "glorious grace that [God] freely bestowed on us." Scripture reminds us that no matter what twists and turns we face in life, no matter what trials or disappointments we suffer, they do not compare to the "inheritance" that God has for us. Paul writes, "having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will," we are "blessed... with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places," and "marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit... the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people."

When our lives find their meanings and purposes – not in human storylines, but in God's storyline – the God who called John the Baptist, the prophets, the saints, and each of us to a life of faith, then we can start to see our lives very differently and adjust to new expectations. We can throw away the scripts and storylines someone handed to us or that we embraced long ago and realize that our lives find their deepest meaning and purpose in something much bigger and greater than ourselves and our individual storylines. And as we root ourselves more deeply in God and God's Word, we begin to see that our lives have the potential to impact others with the love of God in a much deeper way than we ever imagined.

John the Baptist's life was, one could say, rather tragic, and yet, this is not how we usually think of John. We remember that he was a hero of the faith who paved the way for Jesus and helped bring salvation and the Good News of God to countless generations after him and whose witness still inspires us. Like all the saints, we have

been blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we have been called and redeemed by God, and we have been given God's glorious grace to live lives full of meaning and purpose, imbued by none other than our Creator.

Maya Angelou once said, "You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them." Few of us will live fairytale lives. But we have a choice about how we will ultimately define our lives when we follow God's storyline, and the grace, joy, and purpose it brings. Thanks be to God.

*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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of 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.  
and 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:  
Group*

*Composed and prayed on behalf of the congregation by a member of the Intercessors*

Lord, you come to us in our need. Hear our prayers for those in need.  
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

You bind up our wounds and restore us to life. May we be good neighbours to all who are in need or distress and so share in your saving love. We pray for the homeless, the depressed, those who have lost their way in life. We pray for those living in an abusive relationship, especially the children, who have had their childhood stolen from them. We ask you to be with those who are imprisoned by their illness or incapacity and who long for a fuller and richer life. Give their carers the strength to encourage them on a daily basis. We remember Sheila Brown, June West and Richard Ouston.  
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Father, we give thanks for John the Baptist and the way he stood against an evil regime. We remember those who, even in modern times, live in a country ruled by an evil and violent government. Give the leaders of the world the strength to overrule these dictators and support all oppressed people to move towards a safer life. We give thanks for our life. We give thanks for our family, friends and neighbours who have supported us through this difficult time when the Coronavirus pandemic has curtailed our lives. We rejoice in the strength offered to us by Christine, our Rector, who has kept our church life alive even when we had to worship at home for weeks on end. We give thanks for the support offered us through our Diocese under the leadership of Bishop Mark, our Primus and Bishop Ian our Diocesan leader.  
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for the time when your kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven. We join our prayers with our loved ones departed. In our Year's Mind we remember Lillian Rigby, Giles Rodger, Irene Thomas and

Margaret Bousefield. We give thanks for their friendship and love and know that one day we will be with our loved ones in your eternal kingdom. We commend the whole of creation and ourselves to your unfailing love. In a moment of reflection, we bring to you our personal prayers and thanksgiving. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Christ, risen in glory, scatter the darkness from our path.  
Christ, risen in glory, lift the heaviness from our hearts.  
Christ, risen in glory, dispel the troubles for our minds.  
Christ, risen in glory, take the weariness from your world.  
Help us to serve you in love, in joy, in light and peace.

We ask you to accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **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.**

(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.

*The service continues in the **Green** Liturgy Booklet at Page 4. There will be no offertory collection during the service, please place your offertory in the dish at the door before or after the service.*

*Offertory hymn:* Teach me my God and King

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| 1. Teach me, my God and King,<br>In all things Thee to see,<br>And what I do in anything,<br>To do it as for Thee.           | Which with this tincture, "for thy sake"<br>Will not grow bright and clean.  |
| 2. A man that looks on glass,<br>On it may stay his eye;<br>Or if he pleaseth, through it pass,<br>And then the heaven espy. | 4. A servant with this Claus<br>Makes drudgery divine;<br>Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,<br>Makes that and the action fine. |
| 3. All may of Thee partake;<br>Nothing can be so mean,   | 5. This is the famous stone<br>That turneth all to gold;<br>For that which God doth touch and own<br>Cannot for less be told.    |

*Communion Prayer: (For those at home)*

**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:* Morning has broken

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| 1. Morning has broken<br>Like the first morning,<br>Blackbird has spoken<br>Like the first bird.<br>Praise for the singing!<br>Praise for the morning!<br>Praise for them, springing<br>Fresh from the Word! | Praise for the sweetness<br>Of the wet garden,<br>Sprung in completeness<br>Where his feet pass.   |
| 2. Sweet the rain's new fall<br>Sunlit from Heaven,<br>Like the first dewfall<br>On the first grass.   | 3. Mine is the sunlight,<br>Mine is the morning,<br>Born of the one light<br>Eden saw play.<br>Praise with elation,<br>Praise every morning,<br>God's re-creation<br>Of the new day! |

*Sentence:* We give thanks to you Lord, for you are gracious  
**And your mercy endures forever**

*Concluding Prayer:* **Living God, in this sacrament we have shared in your eternal kingdom. May we who taste this mystery forever serve you in faith, hope and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

*Blessing:* The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: 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:* Glorious things of thee are spoken

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| 1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,<br>Zion, city of our God;<br>He whose word cannot be broken<br>Formed thee for his own abode;<br>On the Rock of Ages founded,<br>What can shake thy sure repose?<br>With salvation's walls surrounded,<br>Thou may'st smile at all thy foes. | Who can faint while such a river<br>Ever flows their thirst t'assuage?<br>Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,<br>Never fails from age to age.  |
| 2. See the streams of living waters,<br>Springing from eternal love,<br>Well supply thy sons and daughters,<br>And all fear of want remove;   | 3. Saviour, if of Zion's city<br>I, thro' grace, a member am,<br>Let the world deride or pity,<br>I will glory in thy name;<br>Fading is the worldling's pleasure,<br>All his boasted pomp and show;<br>Solid joys and lasting treasure<br>None but Zion's children know. |

## **7pm Candle Prayer**

**God, whose grace is revealed, in the One who embraces the Cross,  
May we know the sufficiency of your grace  
In the times of our deepest need.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

**God, whose grace is revealed, in the One who embraces the Cross,  
May we walk in the company of those who suffer  
And so share in the grace that you provide.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

**God, whose grace is revealed, in the One who embraces the Cross,  
May we experience the strength you provide  
In the times of our greatest weakness.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

**God, whose grace is revealed, in the One who embraces the Cross,  
May our lives be renewed as we live out our response to your grace  
And so share in the community of grace.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

**God, whose grace is revealed, in the One who embraces the Cross,  
May your grace, sufficient in days past,  
Be sufficient in all the days that are to come.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**