

# *St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy*



*Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021 Pentecost 8 (Trinity 7)*

*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:*      Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round

1. Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round  
of circling planets singing on their way;  
Guide to the nations from the night  
profound  
into the glory of the perfect day;  
rule in our hearts, that we may ever be  
guided and strengthened and upheld by  
thee.
2. We are of thee, the children of thy love,  
the brothers of thy well-belovèd Son;  
descend, O Holy Spirit, like a dove,  
into our hearts, that we may be as one:  
as one with thee, to whom we ever tend;  
as one with him, our Brother and our  
Friend.
3. We would be one in hatred of all wrong,  
one in our love of all things sweet and fair,  
one with the joy that breaketh into song,  
one with the grief that trembles into prayer,  
one in the power that makes thy children  
free  
to follow truth, and thus to follow thee.
4. O clothe us with thy heavenly armour, Lord,  
thy trusty shield, thy sword of love divine;  
our inspiration be thy constant word;  
we ask no victories that are not thine:  
give or withhold, let pain or pleasure be;  
enough to know that we are serving thee

*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, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*Collect SPB:* Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*First reading:* Jeremiah 23. 1-6 (SPB Romans 6.19)

*Second reading:* Ephesians 2. 11-22

*Gradual hymn:* Holy Spirit come confirm us

1. Holy Spirit, come, confirm us  
In the truth that Christ makes known;  
We have faith and understanding  
Through your promised light alone.
2. Holy Spirit, come, console us,  
Come as Advocate to plead,  
Loving Spirit from the Father,  
Grant in Christ the help we need.
3. Holy Spirit, come, renew us,  
Come yourself to make us live,  
Holy through your loving presence,  
Holy through the gifts you give.
4. Holy Spirit, come, possess us,  
You the love of Three in One,  
Holy Spirit of the Father,  
Holy Spirit of the Son.

*Gospel acclamation:* **Alleluia! Alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. Alleluia.**

*Gospel:* Mark 6. 30-34, 53-56 (St Mark 8.1)

*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*

We humans are great builders – towns and turbines, subways and satellites, farms and factories. We can take justifiable pride in these accomplishments, but too often we tend to do our building for all the wrong reasons.

Remember the Genesis story of the Tower of Babel? Those builders achieved amazing things – they were on their way to building a tower to heaven itself – but they were constructing a temple to their own glory. God scrambled their languages and put some limits on their ambition.

Unfortunately, we took those skills we had at building one very tall tower and got really good at building lots and lots of walls. We build walls to protect and to shelter, to corral and to contain, to mark boundaries and to defend them.

In fact, the walls themselves work in concert with the curse of Babel – they help us define and defend all the differences between us. We usually start with languages and nations, but before long we're segregating ourselves by customs and habits, by religions and ideologies. The distinctions get finer, and the walls grow more numerous. Ever creative in our pride, we begin to build walls to the glory of our own distinctiveness, and then convince ourselves that God dwells within our own particular boundaries.

Into the midst of this situation comes Jesus, and as we read in Paul's Letter to the Ephesians today, Christ "has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us." Languages and nations? Christ proclaims peace to those who are far off and those who are near. Religions and ideologies? Jesus was

prepared even to “abolish the law with its commandments and ordinances,” in order to create one new humanity.

Jesus takes down whatever walls we have raised to create divisions amongst us. Insiders and outsiders? The walls come down. Citizens and foreigners? The walls come down. Oppressors and victims? In Christ Jesus, the walls come down. Jesus isn’t just doing demolition work here – he’s not trying to bring about a sort of spiritual anarchy. He’s working to raise a new structure, to join us together into a holy temple. Jesus is working to reverse the curse of Babel, first by healing our divisions and then by creating a new tower. This tower, though, is built to God’s glory. Instead of striving to reach heaven from the earth, this temple is built to invite the presence of God, to be “a dwelling place for God.”

Paul tells us that Jesus does all this through his own body. “In his flesh he ... has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.” At least in part, Paul is talking about the crucifixion. On the cross, Jesus accepted the full weight of our pride and our contention, allowing his own body to be broken in order to show us the folly of our divisions and hostilities.

Here again the story does not end in mere destruction. In the resurrection, Jesus not only witnesses to new life, but acts to reconcile all our divided factions to God “in one body through the cross.” In a sense, this is a natural extension of Jesus’ work of bodily healing throughout his earthly ministry. In our gospel reading for today, remember how the crowds rush to meet Jesus, bringing the sick to lay along his path. The sick and injured come to him with nothing but their faith and their own weakness and vulnerability. Jesus meets not only their needs to be healed, but their needs to be seen and acknowledged.

Sickness or disability in that culture was a sentence of separation. Likely it meant a life of dependence or even of begging. Certainly it meant exclusion from religious life, being declared unclean for temple worship, prevented from drawing near to the physical presence of God that the temple represented. Jesus instead brings God’s presence directly to those most excluded and most in need. Jesus does not let even the religious law stop him – he heals on the Sabbath, he heals in synagogues; he overturns tables in the temple and the sick come to him to be healed there.

Jesus is healing more than bodily illness; he is healing division and exclusion. In fact, he is creating a new Body, gathering together the crowds who have been like sheep without a shepherd, and bringing God’s presence among them. Teaching and healing, Jesus begins to assemble a new community bound together by faith in the nearness of God.

In the cross and resurrection, Jesus consummates all this work of teaching healing. He shows himself to be present even in surrender and suffering and death. He surpasses all those ills in the resurrection, and invites all of humanity to become part of his own body. He not only restores the temple of his own body in three days, but begins to shape all of us into the Body of Christ. In the cross, the two great metaphors for the church are united and find their basis: the church as the Body of Christ, and the church as the new temple of God.

We all are invited to join with the apostles and prophets in their self-giving role of building this new and holy temple. More, we are invited to hold each other up in service, prayer and worship, even as the stones of the temple together bear the weight of the whole.

This can only happen because of Jesus the cornerstone, who also happens to be the master architect. We may look at the church and see it terribly fragmented. We may look at our fellow Christians across the dividing line of denominations and worship styles and theologies, and despair of ever working together. Frankly, we may not want to be placed side-by-side with them in a new and unified structure.

But if we come to seek healing, in humility and in faith, then maybe we will see that Jesus, who is able to heal our divisions, is also able to grow us into one body of many different sorts of members, so long as we remember that Jesus is the head. And Jesus as our master-builder can make use even of our differences in order to create a perfect balance and counterpoise. He will work until the only walls that remain standing are the walls of one great “holy temple in the Lord.”

*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*

The bidding is “Lord, we come before you” and the response is “in you is our peace”.

Blessed are you, Lord of our salvation: to you be praise and glory forever. When we have erred and strayed, you seek us out: your love searches for us and desires to bring us home to the light of your presence. As we rejoice in your Son as the Good Shepherd, stir in us the same compassion for others as you have for us, that we may help to reveal your glory in the world. Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Loving God, we give you thanks that you have called us to share in showing your compassion to the world. Bless all who are called to be pastors, preachers and ministers; all who preach the word and administer the sacraments. Give to your whole church a sense of mission and outreach, that it might share in your redemption. We remember before you all who lead retreats and quiet days and all who help us see the value of prayer.

Lord, we come before you: **in you is our peace.**

We give thanks for all those who care for cattle and sheep, all who provide us with food and the necessities of life. We ask your blessing upon all who have been made homeless or stateless: we pray for asylum seekers and refugees. We remember in your presence all who are suffering from hunger or poverty and we pray for all who are seeking to care for them.

Lord, we come before you: **in you is our peace.**

Loving Father, we give you thanks for our lives and all that we have. We seek your blessing upon our homes and our loved ones. We pray for members of our community who are suffering loneliness, debt or the inability to cope with what is happening to them.

Lord, we come before you: **in you is our peace.**

You are our hope and our strength, O Lord. We come to you for refreshment and renewal. When we are weak, may we trust in your strength. When we are fearful, may we turn to you and your light. We pray for all who are struggling at this time. We remember the troubled in mind and the distressed in spirit. We ask your blessing upon friends and family and anyone known to us who are ill.

Lord, we come before you: **in you is our peace.**

We give you thanks an praise that through your Son we shall not perish but have everlasting life. We rejoice in the fellowship of all your saints. We remember before you all our loved ones departed and remember those from our own congregation who have died in the past year. We pray that they may know the fullness of your kingdom.

Lord, we come before you: **in you is our peace.**

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 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:* Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us

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| 1. Lord Jesus Christ,<br>You have come to us,<br>You are one with us,<br>Mary's Son;<br>Cleansing our souls from all their sin,<br>Pouring your love and goodness in;<br>Jesus, our love for you we sing,<br>Living Lord | 3. Lord Jesus Christ,<br>You have come to us,<br>Born as one of us,<br>Mary's Son;<br>Led out to die on Calvary,<br>Risen from death to set us free,<br>Living Lord Jesus, help us see<br>You are Lord.                     |
| 2. Lord Jesus Christ,<br>Now and every day,<br>Teach us how to pray,<br>Son of God<br>You have commanded us to do<br>This in remembrance, Lord, of you:<br>Into our lives your power breaks through,<br>Living Lord      | 4. Lord Jesus Christ,<br>I would come to you,<br>Live my life for you,<br>Son of God.<br>All your commands I know are true,<br>Your many gifts will make me new,<br>Into my life your power breaks through,<br>Living Lord. |

*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:* Breathe on me breath of God

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love the way you love,  
and do what you would do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die,  
but live with you the perfect life  
for all eternity.

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

*Concluding Prayer:* **O God, as we are strengthened in these holy mysteries, may our lives be a continual offering, holy and acceptable in your sight; through Jesus Christ our 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:* City of God

1. City of God, how broad and far  
outspread thy walls sublime!  
The true thy chartered freemen are  
of every age and clime:
2. One holy church, one army strong,  
one steadfast, high intent;  
one working band, one harvest-song,  
one King omnipotent.
3. How purely hath thy speech come down  
from man's primaeval youth!  
How grandly hath thine empire grown
4. How gleam thy watch-fires through the night  
with never-fainting ray!  
How rise thy towers, serene and bright,  
to meet the dawning day!
5. In vain the surge's angry shock,  
in vain the drifting sands:  
unharmed upon the eternal Rock  
the eternal city stands.

## **7pm Candle Prayer**

**God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
You adopt us as your children and include us within your purposes.  
May we find our place in the world and purpose for our lives  
As we respond to your gracious initiative in Christ.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

**God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
You adopt us as your children and offer to us forgiveness.  
May we know the healing power of forgiveness  
And offer forgiveness according to the measure that we have been forgiven.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

**God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
You adopt us as your children and make known your intention  
To gather together all things in heaven and earth.  
May our lives on earth reflect the life of the world that is to come.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

**God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
You adopt us as your children and make known to us the word of truth.  
May we always speak according to the truth  
And may our words reflect the One who came to us full of grace and truth.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

**God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
You adopt us as your children and seal us with the promised Holy Spirit  
May we rediscover our place in the world and renew the purpose of our lives  
As we receive the gracious gift of your Spirit.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**