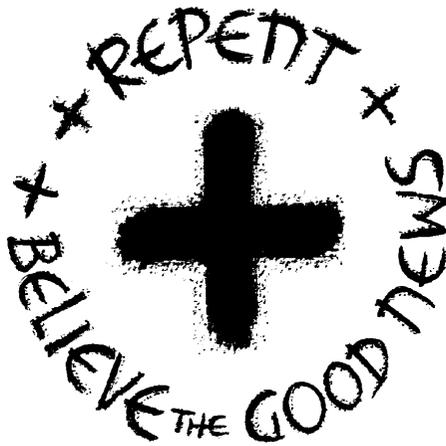


*St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church,
Kirkcaldy*



Ash Wednesday 18th February 2026

Registered Charity SC014403

Introit Hymn: 67 Forty Days and Forty Nights

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

Amen.

Address: Dear friends in Christ, as we begin the season of Lent we are reminded that, in our Christian lives, we seek to realise the death of Jesus so that God may be glorified in our worship and through our witness in the world.

Saint Paul writes of 'carrying around the death of Jesus in our bodies, so that the life of Jesus may be clearly shown in our bodies' (2 Cor 4. 10).

It is through baptism that we die into Christ's death (Rom 6. 3–4) so that we may share in his resurrection. In beginning our Lenten observance, we are therefore reminded of our baptism, and how Christ's death on the cross may clearly be shown in our lives.

We now come before God in penitence, reflecting on our life in Christ. We pledge ourselves to observe this season of self-examination, discipline, and self-denial with sincerity, prayer, and reverent reflection on holy Scripture, seeking God's purpose for us, and modelling our lives on the example of Christ Jesus.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58.1-12 (Page 721)

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5.20-6.10 (Page 226)

Gradual Hymn: 294 Just as I am

Gospel: Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

When it is announced:

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

At end:

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

The Litany:

God the Father,
have mercy on us.

God the Son,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,
have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief:
from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy:
from envy, hatred, and malice:
and from all evil intent.
good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money:
from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws,
good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind:
from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil;
from error and false doctrine,
good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow,
in all times of joy:
in the hour of death,
and at the day of judgement,
good Lord, deliver us.

Govern and direct your holy Church: fill it with love and truth:
and grant it that unity which is your will.
Hear us, good Lord.

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples of all the nations.

Hear us, good Lord.

Enlighten your ministers with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.

Hear us, good Lord.

Give your people grace to hear and receive your word, and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Hear us, good Lord.

Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived.

Hear us, good Lord.

Strengthen those who stand:
comfort and help the faint-hearted:
raise up the fallen;
and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

Hear us, good Lord.

Give us true repentance:
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins:
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

Holy God
Holy Strong
Holy Immortal
Have mercy on us.

Silence

Act of Penitence: Create in us clean hearts, O God:
and renew a right spirit within us.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence

**Almighty God,
Creator of heaven and earth,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word, and deed.**

**We have not loved you with all our being,
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:
we have disfigured your image in which we are made.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been
and what we have done,
guide us and help us to amend our lives,
and bring us to fullness of life in you,
for the sake of your Son who died for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silence

Imposition of Ashes: Almighty God,
you have compassion on all your children,
and hate nothing you have made;
you do not desire the death of sinners,
but that they turn from their ways and live.

May these ashes be for us,
who are redeemed through the cross of Christ,
a sign of our death to sin,
and the pledge of our life in Christ;
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

I invite you to receive the mark of Christ's cross,
with which we are signed at Baptism,
and by which we are forgiven our sins
and live to the glory of God.

(Please move forward to the communion rail)

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

(Please move back to your seats)

Silence

Prayer:

Lord God Almighty,
your people are washed clean in the saving flood of baptism, and
born again: As we follow the way of the cross,
we ask you to unseal for us the wellspring of your grace,
cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy,
and cause your gift of new life to flourish in us;
grant this through Jesus Christ your Son,
who sets us free from sin,
and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
holy and mighty God, world without end. **Amen.**

Peace:

We meet in Christ's name.
Let us share his peace.

Offertory Hymn: 63 All ye who seek a comfort sure

The taking of the Bread and the Wine

Offering:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through
your goodness we have this bread to offer, which
earth has given and human hands have made: it will
become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
it will become the cup of our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer III

Returning to God (Suitable for Lent and Passiontide)

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 him thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you,
maker of light and darkness.
Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos,
brings a harvest out of sorrow
and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled,
debts forgiven
and strangers made welcome.

Your spirit frees us
to live as sons and daughters
in our Father's house.

We, who by Christ's power
follow the way of the Cross,
sharing the joy of his obedience,
now offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving
Father,
for Christ in whom the world is reconciled.
Lifted on the cross,
his suffering and forgiveness
spanned the gulf of our sins had made.
Through the dark struggle
death was swallowed up in victory
that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
recalling the night of Israel's release,
the night in which the sons of Egypt died,
your Chosen One, himself the Firstborn,
freely offering his life.
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 his 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.

Breaking of the Bread:

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

Lord's Prayer:

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to
say:

**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: *At the giving of the bread:*
The Body of Christ given for you.

At the giving of the cup:
The Blood of Christ shed for you.

The Communicant replies **Amen.**

Communion Song:

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace.**

Communion Hymn: 70 Lord Jesus think on me

Sentence: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious.
And his mercy endures for ever.

Post Communion: **God of Compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy Love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing: Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; 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:

465 Thou did'st leave thy throne

