



St John the Evangelist

Scottish Episcopal Church, Jedburgh

A community of welcome in the Borders

26th January 2025

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

10.00 SUNG EUCHARIST

Celebrant: Revd. Andi Hofbauer

Hymn 57

The race that long in darkness pined

PREPARATION

(page 1, blue service book)

Collect

Almighty and eternal God,
behold us in our weakness:
and stretch out your hands to protect us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
world without end. **Amen**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

(page 4, blue service book)

Reading:

Nehemiah 8:1 – 3, 5 – 6, 8 – 10 *(p.467, pew Bible)*

Psalm 19

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life

Hymn

Word of God, renew your people

- 1 Word of God, renew your people,
make us now your living sign.
Recreate us for your purpose
in this place and in this time.

- 2 Word of hope and Word of healing,
make us now your living sign.
Recreate us for your purpose
in this place and in this time.
- 3 Word of peace and Word of justice,
make us now your living sign.
Recreate us for your purpose
in this place and in this time.
- 4 God alone the power we trust in,
make us now your living sign.
Recreate us for your purpose
in this place and in this time.

Bernadette Farrell

Gospel: Luke 4:14 – 21

Sermon, Creed, Intercessions, Peace (pages 4 – 6)

Hymn 56 Songs of thankfulness and praise

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

(page 7, then page 17, blue service book)

At Communion: *there is hand gel on the way to the altar rail
for those who wish to handle the chalice themselves.
Please do not intinct (dip your wafer in the wine).*

Prayer after We use prayer (a) on page 30:

Communion **“Holy and life-giving God ...”**

Hymn 427 O praise ye the Lord

Blessing and Dismissal

We pray especially today for
Grace Lancaster and Linda Grant

Dear Friends and People of God,

'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing,' Jesus says after reading from the Isaiah scroll in the local synagogue. His listeners are shocked. What do you mean? The Spirit of the Lord is here? Now? Today?

Have you been watching the news, Jesus? Are you aware of how horrible things are? That there is more inequality than ever, more poverty, more hopelessness, more people in prison, more illnesses of all sorts, more violence and terrorism than our ancestors ever knew? That the Episcopal Bishop of Washington has to plead for mercy... for mercy, not justice, for people in her own country who fear what the change of government and president will bring? This now--today—this is the kingdom of God?

'Today' is a deeply challenging spiritual reality; because 'today' insists that we embrace fully the moment of 'now'. 'Today' places us in the midst of the life of God, in the midst of God's purpose, reminding us that we, too, are actors and agents in God's desire for the world – a world God desires to be reconciled 'today', a world that lives out God's kingdom, today. 'Today' is the most radical thing Jesus ever said.

In the most real and true way, the Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus. And the Spirit of the Lord was also upon his listeners and neighbours then, and is upon us, his followers and friends, now. For Jesus, incarnate Word of the Father, was one of them, is one of us. And by emphasising the word 'today', Jesus transforms Isaiah's words, Isaiah's prophecy, into a powerful invitation for the whole community, then and now, to act on behalf of God's justice.

This is a hard truth to hear and to receive. Jesus' listeners then refused. But Jesus' sermon remains as clear and

poignant and important and urgent as ever: 'Today this promise has been fulfilled in your hearing. What we need is already here. Today.

Let me share some words by poet-priest Malcolm Guite (used with permission) – may they be to us challenge & call, promise & blessing:

*Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.*

*This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.*

*The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace*

*Today the lost are found in His translation.
Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.*

With my love and prayers: Andi

Priest-in-Charge

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Toilets are available next door in St. John's Old School
at the end of the downstairs corridor.

Our welcomers have the key to the front door.