



St John the Evangelist

Scottish Episcopal Church, Jedburgh
A community of welcome in the Borders

23rd February 2025

Second Sunday before Lent

10.00 SUNG EUCHARIST

*Celebrant: **Revd. John Evans***

Hymn 466 Thou, whose almighty word

PREPARATION

(page 1, blue service book)

Collect Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord:
that we, who are weighed down by our sins,
may be delivered for the glory of your Name;
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)

1st Reading: Genesis 2:4b – 9, 15 – 25 *(p.2, pew Bible)*

Psalm 65 **You visit the earth and water it**

2nd Reading: Revelation 4 *(p.267, pew Bible)*

Hymn 353 Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Gospel: Luke 8:22 – 25

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

Hymn

I come with joy, a child of God

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.

Brian Wren (1936 -)

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

(page 7, then page 26, 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 Communion *We use prayer (c) on page 30:
"Loving God ..."*

Hymn 354 Eternal Father, strong to save

Blessing and Dismissal

We pray especially today for
Grace Lancaster, Linda Grant, Elizabeth Bentley

Dear Friends and People of God,

'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.' (from Luke 6)

The Gospel reading for the Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany is asking a lot, isn't it?

Love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, bless those who curse us, pray for those who mistreat us? If anyone strikes us on the cheek, offer the other also? Jesus is asking a lot of those who follow him. These teachings just seem so difficult, and, frankly, so misused over the years, that it is tempting to ignore them.

And yet, Jesus tells us in no uncertain terms to love our enemies. And we are left to wrestle with what it means to do just that.

When I ponder this, I always have to think of Archbishop Tutu. He never deviated from what the Bible taught him – to love and forgive one's enemies.

He was asked his secret to doing this. How was he able to live by these challenging teachings of Jesus? Bishop Tutu's answered this question in an interview, when he said this: "I hold on, and often only by the skin of my teeth, to believe that God is in charge of his world, in spite of all appearances to the contrary."

When we truly believe that, then we can love even our enemies. We can pray for those who mistreat us. We can turn the other cheek. And we can forgive.

Jesus lived by this, his own teaching, too. He chose to love his enemies, even when they mocked him and spat upon him. He was determined to do good to those who hated him, even when they cried out for his crucifixion. He opted to bless them when they cursed him, and he prayed for them when they abused him. Even when hanging from the cross, he forgave those who put him there: "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing*"

The world will know we are followers of Jesus by our love for one another. But the world will become convinced of this love, when we love even our enemies, just as Jesus taught us to do. Let us love God, and love ourselves, and love one another. But let us also learn to love those who will not love us back, until all the world knows the love that we are blessed to have in Jesus. To the glory of God. **With my love and prayers: Andi**

COMING UP:

Our next **joint service** with St. Cuthbert's will be here at Jedburgh on Sunday 2nd March at 10.00.

On 5th March, our **Ash Wednesday** Eucharist is at 12.30pm. Please will you return any 2024 Palm crosses to church for the preparation of our Lenten ashes. Many thanks.

Our weekly **Lent Course** – 'Live Lent: Embracing Justice' – runs for six sessions on Thursday mornings following the midweek communion, starting on 6th March at 11.00.



The service to mark the **World Day of Prayer** is on Friday 7th March, 10.30am at St. Mary's RC church – all are welcome.

Tom Wilkinson (St. Andrew's University and St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh) will give an **organ recital** at Melrose Parish Church on Sunday 16th March, 4.00pm: £10.

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.*