



St John the Baptist
Scottish Episcopal Church, Perth

Welcome to our worship

14th December, 2025, 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.30 a.m. **Holy Communion**

Leader, Alan McPherson, Reserved Sacrament

10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist** (Revised Scottish Liturgy 1982)

Celebrant, Revd Mariusz Wojciechowski, Assistant Priest

Order of Service

Processional hymn	259 Hail to the Lord's anointed Lighting the Advent Candle (See separate sheet)
Welcome	
Kyrie	Page 6
Collect	Overleaf
First Readings	Isaiah 35. 1-10; James 5. 7-10
Gradual Hymn	When out of poverty is born (See separate sheet)
Gospel	Matthew 11. 2-11
Sermon	Dean Graham Taylor
Nicene Creed	Page 7
Intercessions	Gordon Murch
Peace	Page 8
Offertory Hymn	299 I am the bread of life
Eucharistic Prayer II	Pages 12 - 14
Lord's Prayer	Page 28
Communion Song	Page 29
Communion	<i>All are welcome</i>
Communion Hymn	381 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
Post Communion Prayer	Overleaf and pages 29-30
Recessional Hymn	282 Hills of the north, rejoice
Dismissal	Page 30

*You are welcome to join us for tea and coffee
in the Threshold after the 8.30 am and 10.30 am service*

The Collect

Stir up our prayers, Lord, and hear us: that they who are sorrowful and suffering may rejoice at the Advent of your only-begotten Son; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen**

A reading from Isaiah 35. 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

A reading from James 5. 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

The Gospel Reading

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 11. 2-11

Glory to Christ our Saviour

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen

Choir Rehearsals for the Carol service on 21st December will take place in the Church on Thursday 18th December at 7.45 pm

Today, Sunday 14th December. Mince pies will be served in the Threshold after the 10.30 am service in aid of Christian Aid.

Wednesdays 17th December at 7 pm. ***Advent Reflections*** at St John's. Drinks and nibbles will be served at 6.30 pm. ***Longing for the Light.***

Volunteers are required to help distribute the Christmas Services leaflets. These are available at the back of the Church. Those who are helping with the distribution please put your name, number you have taken and also where you have taken them, on the sheet provided.

Forthcoming Services and Events

Every Thursday, 11 a.m. *Holy Communion (1982)* followed by coffee and chat.

Sunday 21st December

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

Nine Lessons and Carols

Holy Communion

Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 24th December

9.00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday 25th December

10.30 a.m.

Christmas Day Service

Sunday 28th December

8.30 a.m.

10.30 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas

Holy Communion

Sung Eucharist

The annual PACT Carol Service will take place at St Matthews Church on Friday 19th December at 7.00pm. The theme of the service will be “Room at the Inn” and the guest speaker at the service will be Sabir Zazai, CEO of the Scottish Refugee Council. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church, Perth

Rector – The Very Reverend Graham S. Taylor

Assistant Priests – Reverend Annie MacKay Hughes

Reverend Mariusz Wojciechowski

Clergy can be contacted through the Church office on 01738 634999

Email: office@episcopal-perth.org.uk

The Church Administrator is in the Office:

Mondays 2 – 5 pm

Tuesdays 9 am – 1 pm

Thursdays 1 – 4 pm

Rector's day off – FRIDAYS