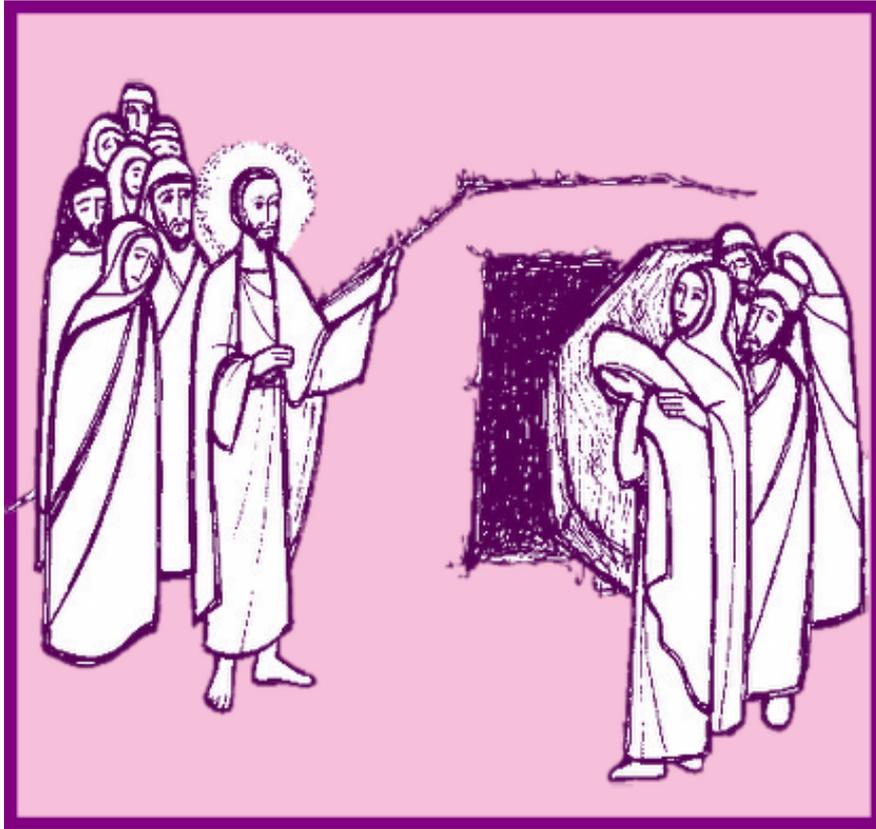


ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



Jesus said, "Loose him; let him go."
(John 11: 44)

5th Sunday of Lent

Order of Service
22nd of March 2026
10:30am

Find us: <http://www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk> on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stninianschurch/> & live on [YouTube](#)

Good morning and welcome to everyone who has joined us at St. Ninian's this morning. We hope you will enjoy our worship of God together today. As a congregation our mission is to **'Worship God together, encourage personal faith and prayer, spread the Good News about Jesus Christ, and love and care for others in our community.'** If you are a visitor, there is a **visitors' book** at the front door, please sign it.

Before the service there is weekly a **Prayer Group** that meets in Room 6 (the Alpha Room) from 10:00am – 10:15am. Everyone is welcome, please ask a steward for Room 6, the Alpha Room.

There is a **crèche** but because of the February holiday, there is no **Sunday School** this morning. The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. The readers this morning are **Andrew Job, Suzanne Hope, Jim Hunter and Christine Miller**. Leading worship is the **Rev. James Aitken**.

This Sunday is the **5th Sunday in the season of Lent**.

We are in the season of **Lent** when we make ourselves ready to commemorate Jesus' Passion and celebrate his resurrection. Lent lasts forty days (not counting Sundays), and this year it began on the 18th February (Ash Wednesday). It ends on the 3rd of April (Good Friday). Lent represents a sacrificial journey of suffering. We travel with Jesus from Galilee, where he ministered, to Jerusalem, the place of his crucifixion. This journey is an opportunity for us to prepare for the events of Holy Week and then for the transformative event of Easter that transcends the sacrifice and sufferings of Lent. We reflect on what needs transformed in our lives and in the world, what is separating us and the world from God, and what holds back the people of the world from living life in all its fulness. As we do so we look forward to living new lives beyond Easter as people who believe in the hope contained in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Son.

Following worship there is **fellowship, friendship, and refreshments** in the Martin Shields' Hall. Please join us.

St. Ninian's uses the Revised Common Lectionary which is an approved week-by-week three-year cycle of biblical readings. In 2026 we are in Year A and the principal Gospel readings come from the **Gospel of Matthew**. The readings lead us from Advent through the Christian year, the Bible, and Jesus' life through birth, baptism, his public ministry, his death, resurrection and ascension.

ENTRANCE

The service begins with a **sentence from the Bible** (Psalm 130: 5), a **call to stand** (please do so if you are able to), an **introit** from the choir, and the **entrance of the Bible**. For the rest of the service the words in bold are read or sung by everyone. We sit to pray and stand to sing.

INTROIT

WELCOME, INTIMATIONS and SHARING OF THE PEACE

We welcome one another with Christ's words 'Peace be with you'.

APPROACH TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: God of creation we come here to worship;

All: to give thanks for the gift of life.

Minister Jesus Christ we come to worship together

All: to rejoice in the new life you bring.

Minister: Holy Spirit cleanse our hearts and minds

All: and guide us in the way of love.

HYMN 88 (Psalm 130) Up from the depths I cry to God

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

We continue our worship celebrating what God has given us while apologizing for what we have done to harm God, his creation, and his people.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

John 11: 1 – 45

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Narrator:

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

So the sisters sent a message to Jesus

Martha and Mary:

Lord, he whom you love is ill.

Narrator:

But when Jesus heard it, he said:

Jesus:

This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

Narrator:

Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples:

Jesus:

Let us go to Judea again.

Disciples:

Rabbi, the Judeans were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?

Jesus:

Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.

Disciples:

Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.

Jesus:

Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.

Narrator:

Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Judeans had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus:

Martha:

Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.

Jesus:

Your brother will rise again.

Martha:

I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.

Jesus:

I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?

Martha:

Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.

Narrator:

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately:

Martha:

The Teacher is here and is calling for you.

Narrator:

And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Judeans, who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him she knelt at his feet and said to him:

Mary:

Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Narrator:

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Judeans who came with her also weeping he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

Jesus:

Where have you laid him?

Mary's companions (Congregation):

Lord, come and see.

Narrator:

Jesus began to weep.

Mary's companions (Congregation):

See how he loved him! Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?

Narrator:

Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

Jesus:

Take away the stone.

Martha:

Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.

Jesus:

Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?

Narrator:

So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said:

Jesus:

Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me. *[loudly]* Lazarus, come out!

Narrator:

The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth.

Jesus:

Unbind him, and let him go.

Narrator:

Many of the Judeans therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done.

CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

HYMN 718 We cannot measure how you heal

Children leave for Sunday School. Visiting children are welcome to join in.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8: 6 – 11

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ANTHEM

SERMON

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

HYMN 484 Great God, your love has called us here

OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Freely given, our offering supports the work of Christ's church and symbolises our spiritual dedication to the building-up of the Kingdom of God. We remain seated to sing our dedication (**CH4 402**) -*

**'Take up your cross,' the Saviour said,
'if you would my disciple be;
Take up your cross, with willing heart,
And humbly follow after me.'**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We give thanks for our blessings, and cry out for help for others and ourselves. During the prayers this response is sung periodically:

HYMN 776 Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison
(*trans: Lord, have mercy*)

SENDING OUT

HYMN 130

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

**Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**