

Holy Trinity, Elgin with St Margaret's, Lossiemouth

Welcome to the Scottish Episcopal Church.
This parish welcomes members of other denominations to
share in its worship

Sunday 10 Oct 21 Pentecost 20

There are in-person services at both Holy Trinity and St Margaret's,
and restrictions are gradually and carefully being removed.
There is no longer any need to book, but we still need to keep records
for Test and Protect. Don't forget your face covering!

This leaflet will continue to come out each week, containing prayers,
readings and reflections that we can all share in. It can be
downloaded from the website, will be emailed to you if we have your
email address, or posted to you if we do not.

Online services are available on our YouTube channel, in addition to
the Provincial services. (Links on page 7)

For any contact, questions or queries please get in touch with Tembu
01343 547505 or rector@trinityelgin.org

Mon 11 Oct Kenneth

Tues 12 Oct Elizabeth Fry

Wed 13 Oct

Thurs 14 Oct

Fri 15 Oct Teresa of Avila

Sat 16 Oct

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year B Weekdays Year 1

Week of Proper 28 Daily Prayer: Week A

Collect

O Lord, since without you we cannot please you: let the work of your mercy in all things guide our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

First Reading Amos 5: 6 – 7, 10 – 15

Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins – you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Psalms Psalm 90: 12 – 17

Response *O Lord, be gracious to your servants*

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry? be gracious to your servants. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life. **R**

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us and the years in which we suffered adversity. Show your servants your works and your splendour to their children. **R**

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork. **R**

Second Reading Hebrews 4: 12 – 16

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to

judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

GOSPEL Mark 10: 17 – 31

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.”’ He said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.’ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’ Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age – houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields – but with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

Reflection

Did you notice how the man came to Jesus? He came running. And he flung himself down at Jesus' feet. A rich, young aristocrat falling at the feet of a penniless prophet from Nazareth. He was carried away in a moment of overflowing emotion. Very wisely, Jesus said to this enthusiastic young man: "Stop and think! Don't get carried away by your excitement. I don't want you to be swept to me by a brief moment of emotion."

Respectability usually means *not* doing things, not getting into trouble, not hurting other people, and this respectable man was pleased to be able to say to Jesus "I can honestly say that I've never in my whole life done anyone any harm". But what Jesus was really asking him was "***What good have you done?*** With all your wealth, with all your gifts, with all you could give away, what positive good have you done to other people? How much have you gone out of your way to help and comfort and strengthen others?" Jesus was saying "Stop thinking of goodness as sticking to the rigid rules of what you must not do. Get out of this mindset of moral respectability being all that is needed. **How much do you want real goodness?** Do you want it enough to give away all your possessions?" And the shocked man slunk away unhappily to think it over because he had a lot of possessions.

Someone else who had many possessions, but who stripped himself of them all was St Francis of Assisi, whose feast day was last Monday. Francis was a young man who responded wholeheartedly to Jesus' call to give up everything to follow him. He was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant, a respected and respectable leader of society in the town. But Francis saw his Christian vocation as giving up everything; his calling was to absolute poverty; he dramatically renounced his inheritance and even his good clothes; decision by decision he stripped himself of everything so as to become more like Jesus.

Francis has much to teach us about how we might go further than mere respectability. So as Episcopalians, for example, we might go further than indifference about other denominations, ***further even than tolerance of people of other faiths.*** I think what St Francis has to teach us is what Christ himself is trying to teach us..... it is something about not just sticking to the rules in a negative sort of way, but it's about the giving of our whole selves in abundance, in generosity.

Jesus told the young man that being respectable was not enough. It was certainly not enough for St Francis as regards his whole life and in his attitude towards all God's creatures. He was brave and open and resolute.

Listen to Jesus asking you these questions and reflect on them..... Just being respectable and merely sticking to the rules in a negative way, is that enough for you? Or do you trust God enough to let him show you how to be open and loving with everyone? It sounds daunting, impossible even, but as we ponder what our response might be, we can draw strength from Jesus' own comforting words to his disciples and to each one of us: ***Nothing is impossible for God.***

Intercessions

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, help us to pray for all your children.

We pray for the life of the world; that your peace may be known and may prevail: For people worried about their futures because of political and economic upheaval, or because they are or were living in areas of armed conflict. We ask for a spirit of compromise and reconciliation wherever people have become factionalized.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all who suffer injury, death or loss; that they may know the hope to which you call us: For any of our friends suffering illness or injury, asking for swift and good recoveries. We ask for hope for people ground down by illness, poverty or their struggle to find a settled home. We remember friends who have died and pray for their families.

We pray for all who exercise rule and authority; that they may acknowledge your power: We ask for leaders with integrity, vision and the perseverance to work for the common good. May each of us be prepared to change the way we live as we seek to do less harm to our planet and the people who share it.

We pray for the Church which is Christ's body; that it may live for the praise of your glory: Starting with ourselves and this congregation, we ask that the church becomes known as a welcoming haven for any who need it.

O God, accept the prayers which we offer in Christ's name for the world you have created and redeemed. Amen

Please pray for: Jackie's family, Andy Roberson, Ian and Ann Bartholomew, Carol Wetherell, Kay McGloan and Judith

Welcome!

Congratulations to Philip on his ordination as a Deacon and appointment as Curate at our two churches. We very much look forward to your ministry amongst us and are holding you and the ministry team in our prayers.

Grant, Lord, to those now called to the sacred ministry
confidence in the Gospel and the Word of Life,
compassion for the lost and needy,
courage, endurance, and unfailing love.

For Jesus Christ's sake.

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Notes from the latest vestry meeting.

- We welcome Philip to our ministry team and pray for him.
- AGM will be on Sun 5 Dec after the communion service at Holy Trinity.
- We are dealing with the ongoing problem of water ingress in the Halls.
- Full copies of minutes from Vestry meetings, once approved, will be available in the folder on the bookcase opposite the Small Hall.

The prayer group is meeting on Zoom. Anyone is welcome to join us... perhaps for one week only, or for a few weeks or as a regular attender. Our sessions run from 10.30 every Wednesday morning, and usually finish around 12.15. If you want to know more or if you have any concerns you would like us to pray about, please contact Jenny (07950 830017).

Readings for next Sunday 17 Oct Pentecost 21

Isaiah 53: 4 – 12 Psalm 91: 9 – 16

Hebrews 5: 1 – 10 Mark 10: 35 – 45

Activities and Future Events
www.trinityelgin.org

Many activities are currently suspended due to Covid-19 precautions.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals – please contact 01343 547505.
Tembu's normal days off are Friday and Saturday.

"Not in the pews" leaflet. Please check if your friends have received a copy by e-mail or post and encourage folk to get in touch if they'd like a copy. It's also on our website: <http://www.trinityelgin.org/>

You'll also find a weekly SEC service at:

<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

or listen on the telephone. (Details from Jenny on 07950 830017)

Our own psalms, readings and weekly services are available at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSYhBaWnrmXOvc1HgDzlm_g

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Please remember, Tembu is really happy to hear from you. He's not too busy to take your phone call or read your e-mail.

Pattern of services

Digital	In-person (<i>limited numbers</i>)
Recorded digital service of the Word – Usually available from 9 am each Sunday	Sundays 9.30 am St Margaret's Sundays 11.15 am HT

The Youth Fellowship If you are S1–S6 and would like to join us please get in touch with Tembu at rector@trinityelgin.org

Mothers' Union. Monthly meetings will restart on Wed 20 Oct at 2pm in the small hall. Revd Jenny will take that first meeting. All are welcome and Lynne T can give you more details.

Nothing about money this week – I’m going to have to get my head down and do another Gift Aid claim instead. Just to say – for a confidential discussion about legacies please speak to Gordon Barron. For help with regular giving and Gift Aid please contact Kate. 813133 or GiftAid@trinityelgin.org

Blister packs. Thank you to everyone who has been collecting the blister packs, this is ongoing till the end of the year. Thank you. Lynne T

⇒ After Church Tea & Coffee is back at HT! Please make your way round to the small hall. “Restaurant rules” for face coverings – stand up, mask up; sit down, mask down. Many thanks to all who have volunteered to serve.

News from my patch. Swallow time, Goose time. For the past 20+ years I’ve been doing phenology! Well – most people know it as “Nature’s Calendar”. It’s a citizen science project and our records help monitor the effects of climate change. We look out for indicators of the changing seasons – like the leaves on different species of tree, migrating bird arrivals and departures, or insects and flowers appearing. Even fungi! (There’s a brilliant Fly Agaric – the red one with white spots – just on the corner of our lane.) You can hardly fail to notice the huge skeins of geese around at the moment. I’m always tickled that they arrive within a week of the swallows leaving. And in April, they’ll leave just as the swallows arrive. A very neat reminder. At the start of Goose time I look for leaves colouring and falling. When Swallow time comes (as come it will) I’ll be looking for new leaves and flowers.

And finally

A fool says what he knows, and a wise man knows what he says.

Yiddish Proverb

Priest in Charge: The Revd Tembu Rongong
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Items for next Sunday’s leaflet should be with Kate by Wednesday evening.
pewleaflet@trinityelgin.org or 01343 835133