

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 15 May 22 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday services are at 9.30 am in St Margaret's, Lossiemouth and at 11.15 am in Holy Trinity, Elgin. The requirement to wear face coverings at services has now lifted. If you would prefer to continue wearing one, please feel very welcome to do so. The person distributing communion will continue to wear a face covering. As cases in our area are still quite high, please be kind and give each other space.

This leaflet comes out weekly, by e-mail or post and on our website. Please make sure your friends receive theirs.

A recorded digital Service of the Word is usually available each Sunday on our YouTube channel:

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

You'll also find a weekly Scottish Episcopal Church service at:

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

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

Mon 16 May

Tue 17 May

Wed 18 May

Thurs 19 May

Fri 20 May

Sat 21 May Helena

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year C Weekdays Year 2

Week of: Easter 5 Daily Prayer: New Life: The Lord

Collect

O God, who alone can bring harmony to the minds of your faithful people: give us grace to love the things you command, and to desire the things you promise; that, amid the uncertain changes of this world, our hearts may be firmly fixed where true joys are to be found; 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 Acts 11: 1 – 18

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, ‘Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?’ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ‘I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” But I replied, “By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.” But a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, “Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.” And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

Psalm Ps 148

Response *Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.*

Alleluia! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. **R**

Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded and they were created. He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away. **R**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps; Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will; Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds; **R**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; Young men and maidens, old and young together. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted, his splendour is over earth and heaven. **R**

He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia! **R**

Second Reading Rev 21: 1 – 6

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

GOSPEL

John 13: 31 – 35

During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

Reflection (Jenny)

The book of Acts is a sequel to Luke’s Gospel. In this new book Luke tells us what happened next... after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; and how this small band of followers began the process of growing into a worldwide Christian movement. In spite of its title, Acts does not tell the story of all the apostles. It focuses instead on just two of them, on the exploits of Peter and Paul. In the first chapters of the book we see Peter and the other apostles becoming leaders of the emerging community in Palestine, which was to become known as the Christians; they are leaders who are themselves struggling, at the same time as they are guiding the community into becoming the Church. What Luke wants to get across is that ***the apostles are always open to the guidance and the leadership of the Holy Spirit***, even when that involves them having to change their ideas radically. Some people think that it should not have been called The Acts of the Apostles; perhaps a better title for this book in the NT might have been ***The Acts of the Holy Spirit***, because it is all about ***God’s*** action; it’s about the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church.

Today our work as church people is still about ***what God is doing through us***, not what we are achieving ourselves. And if we feel sometimes that we as a church do things rather well, if we feel like giving ourselves a pat on the back for keeping things going over the last couple of years as we begin to emerge from the horrors and privations of the pandemic, we probably need to remind ourselves that this is primarily God’s work, not ours.

Those first apostles had to learn to change their whole attitude towards other people. Perhaps that is what God is asking us to do too. When we take a good look at the very early church that we read about in the book of Acts, and when we look at the struggles that Peter and Paul had, hopefully we may come to understand better how to allow God to work in us, as he worked through them, so that the church may continue to grow today as it did then.

The story that we heard this morning is about Peter’s vision. It is quite hard for us today, so far removed as we are from the culture and context of Peter’s world, to

understand the hugeness of what was happening to Peter in that vision. He was being shown by God that he had to change completely his former way of thinking. All of a sudden, everything he had been taught to believe as a Jew was turned upside down. All of a sudden he realised that the OT dietary rules which had helped give the Jews their very identity over hundreds of years no longer applied. All of a sudden he learned that Gentiles, non-Jews were to be accepted as Christians in this new community. He came to learn that the real issue was not really about “unclean food”; it was about turning upside down the rules that divided the world into insiders and outsiders.

Jesus had talked about insiders and outsiders lots of times. He had taught that it is not what goes into a person that defiles them but what comes out of the heart; what they do and what they say: what is important is not conforming to set rules but how a person lives their life under God. Jesus consistently maintained that *people* are of more value than rules, and that helping and loving people is the real fulfilment of the law. And as we see again and again he went out of his way to befriend *outsiders*... a large part of his ministry was devoted to people who were not respected or considered respectable in the society of the day, tax-collectors, prostitutes, lepers, Samaritans, women, disabled people, children.

Who are the outsiders for us today? People not like us? Foreigners who don't speak our language, asylum seekers, homeless people, people who have been in prison, people with a different sexual orientation, people who have suffered a mental illness, noisy children, rebellious teenagers, difficult older people? Each one of us would have our own list of people whom we would consider to be outsiders. What does that say about us as a community of followers of Jesus Christ? The Jesus who instructed his disciples quite clearly as we heard in our Gospel reading today, straight after he had washed their dirty feet, I give you a new commandment... that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, just as I have knelt to wash your feet and just as I am about to die on a cross for you, you also should love one another... not only the people you like, not only your friends... ***you must all love one another as I have loved you***, because when people see you doing that they will begin to understand something of God's love too.

It sounds easy: You must love one another.

It is easy to feel compassion and aching sympathy when we catch a glimpse on our TV screens of some of the suffering people in Ukraine caught up in the war with Russia; but it is hard to work out what our individual and collective action should be to help ease their suffering. But Jesus said: you must love one another as I have loved you. It was God the Holy Spirit who gave Peter the vision of a new way; it was the Holy Spirit who enabled and empowered those early Christians to question their old prejudices and their suspicions about other people, and it was the Holy Spirit who showed them how to carry out Jesus' new commandment to love one another.

Will somebody, one day, I wonder, write a book called The Acts of the People of St Margaret's and Holy Trinity? Will it be all about how we learned to question our old prejudices? Will it be about how we worked together under the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit? Will it be about our coming to a fresh understanding of God's grace and forgiveness and unconditional love? And will it be about how we let God teach us and change us, as he taught and changed Peter and the other apostles? Will it be about how we opened ourselves to the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit, even when that meant us changing our ideas radically? Will that book be about each one of us carrying out Jesus' new commandment: You must love one another, as I have loved you?

Intercessions (Kate)

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, Light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations. Bring understanding between those of differing faiths and sects; bring reconciliation between warring factions; bring justice to the oppressed; and equality of opportunity to the poor.

Jesus, Lord of Life, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry and nourish us all with your word. May all people have enough to eat, clean water, a safe environment, a decent home, proper healthcare and an education.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way. Help us to live lives full of joy and peace so that others may meet you through us. Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you. We remember particular friends or relatives and all who have been an inspiration to us. Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers and be with us always,
Amen.

Please pray for: Andy Roberson, Ian and Ann Bartholomew, and Carol Wetherell.

Readings for next Sunday 22 May 22 Easter 6

Acts 16: 9 – 15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21: 10, 22 – 22: 5

John 14: 23 – 29

Activities and Future Events

www.trinityelgin.org

Baptisms, weddings and funerals – please contact 01343 547505.

Tembu's normal days off are Friday and Saturday.

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

Choir practice in church, Wed 5 pm. New singers welcome.

Mothers' Union 3rd Wed of the month, 2 pm in HT hall

Men's group Open to all. Monthly outings. Contact Graham 830250

HT Gardeners 2nd Tue of month (not winter) at back. Front – any time.

Prayer group Contact Jenny (07950 830017)

Youth Fellowship Thanks to the YF for really interesting reflections last week! Please contact Tembu for info on weekly Tuesday meetings.

Mothers' Union. The next meeting is THIS WED 18 May, 2pm in HT small hall. Dr Jackie Mobbs will come & tell us about some of her experiences as a doctor on cruise liners. All welcome.

Gordonstoun Chapels Thurs 19 May, 4 pm at St Christopher's Chapel. Tea and a talk on Christianity in and international school from Christian Collet, chaplain. Followed by Compline in the Michael Kirk, led by The Rector. The Michael Kirk is one of the gems of north east Scotland and a place where many have found peace. For info contact Graham on 830250

Help needed It's time for St Margaret's, Lossiemouth to get a 'Spring Clean'!! If you are able to come along and help on Thurs 9 Jun from 10am onwards please let John B or Ann D know.

♪ Evensong for Easter ♪

Please join us as we celebrate the Easter season with Choral Evensong

This Sunday, 15 May. 6 pm in Holy Trinity.

Music by Stanford and Wesley.

Refreshments afterwards.

Diary

Sun 15 May Easter Evensong

Wed 18 May Mothers' Union 2pm in HT hall. "Cruise ship doctor".

Thurs 19 May Men's group – Gordonstoun chapels Contact Graham 830250

Sat 21 May Messiah for all. 5 pm at Pluscarden Abbey

Thurs 9 Jun Spring clean 10 am at St Margaret's

Thurs 16 Jun Men's group & MU – Gordon Castle garden & Gordon chapel

Sun 12 Jun Summer Songs of Praise 3 pm at HT

Sun 19 Jun "Choir on tour" Choral Evensong at Aberlour. All welcome.

Big thank you to 2 recent new Gift Aiders. If anyone wants to make changes to their arrangements: contact Kate. 835133 or GiftAid@trinityelgin.org

For legacies please speak to Gordon Barron. 547188

News from my shower There are some peculiar things that have come from the last couple of years. Like an odd shaped hanger hanging from a broomshank over the shower tray. It was my Christmas present and is specially designed to be easy to hang up my dripping wetsuit. If the swimming pool hadn't had to close, I wouldn't have got into sea swimming and wouldn't have a clue about looking after a wetsuit. Another strange thing is that I've gained a taste for "Gothic Americana" or "Country Noir" music. Our Saturday night lockdown treat was to watch "The Brokenwood Mysteries" – the hilarious detective series from New Zealand. I got hooked on the local country bands who provide the soundtrack. I know it's been a struggle for many people but I find it helps to celebrate the peculiar, unexpected enjoyments that have come along, too. I find myself wondering who else found odd things to celebrate. Do please tell us about them!

PS Great tits – seen taking caterpillars into nest box!!

And finally

Strange how much you have to know before you know how little you know.

Priest in Charge: The Revd Tembu Rongong

01343 547505

Rector@trinityelgin.org



Items for next Sunday's leaflet should be with John by Wednesday evening.

pewleaflet@trinityelgin.org or 01343 815650