

# 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 16 Jan 22 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday services are at 9.30 am in St Margaret's, Lossiemouth and at 11.15 am in Holy Trinity, Elgin. Face coverings are required, we keep records for Test and Protect and are very careful about Covid precautions.

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](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](mailto:rector@trinityelgin.org)

**Mon 17 Jan** Anthony of Egypt

**Tue 18 Jan**  
The Confession of Peter

**Wed 19 Jan**

**Thurs 20 Jan**

**Fri 21 Jan** Agnes

**Sat 22 Jan**

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year C Weekdays Year 2

Week of Proper 2 Daily Prayer: Week B

## Collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of heaven and earth: mercifully hear the prayers of your people, and grant your peace to our times; 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 Isaiah 62: 1 – 5

The LORD says this: For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

## Psalm Ps 36: 5 – 10

Response *With you is the well of life and in your light we see light.*

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, and your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you save both human and beast, O Lord. **R**

How priceless is your love, O God! your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings. They feast upon the abundance of your house; you give them drink from the river of your delights. **R**

For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, and your favour to those who are true of heart. **R**

## Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12: 1 – 11

Concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no

one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

GOSPEL John 2: 1 – 11

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reflection (*Tembu*)

The events we read about in the gospel today at the wedding in Cana are remembered as Jesus' first miracle. Now, John's gospel doesn't talk of 'miracles' but, instead, 'signs'. Signs point to things, and Jesus' actions point to who he is. The gospel says '*Jesus did this... and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him*'. What did they believe in? What was revealed? What was the sign pointing at or to?

If John's gospel is written to have you, the reader, also believe in Jesus as the Word made flesh, then these signs are written down, so that you can believe too. Jesus reveals in his actions and words who God is. What God is like. Something about the events at the wedding, made the disciples see something special, and believe that the man they were following was more than just a man. They had started to glimpse the power within, the glory that was being revealed.

The thing is, this sign was plainly not pre-planned. Jesus and his disciples were just guests at the wedding. They were there to celebrate with the family and the couple being married. This wasn't a preaching tour, nor was it Jesus' event. And when it comes down to it and Mary starts to involve Jesus, he even goes so far as to say to his mother '*what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come*'. So Jesus had a thought of when his hour might be. He was looking for it, and would know when the time was right. Despite that, Jesus acted because his mother asked him to. Mary was bothered by the wine running out. Unlike now, at the time, this breach in hospitality would have been deeply embarrassing, a source of shame for the couple and their family. Mary knew Jesus could do something about this, and so she asked. Despite seeming unwilling at first, Jesus acted. I find in this a deeply satisfying knowledge that God acts when faced with human need. There is no 'Divine plan' so important that a simple request for help cannot move our loving Father. Prayer works, we reach out and are met with God. We don't know always how God will answer prayer (God is not a wishing well), but God does always answer.

This sign shows the wild generosity of God. What would most people do when faced with the words '*they have no wine*'? Get in a few bottles? Have a whip round and see if a few others can contribute? No? Jesus when faced with this question makes between 120 and 180 *gallons* of wine! And not just any wine. Wine so good, the steward feels the need to question the bridegroom about it. God is generous. Extravagantly generous. This is a running theme in Jesus' miracles, signs and parables. The sower sows the seed on all the different grounds - not just the good ground. The feeding of the 5000 and the 4000 has lots of baskets of fragments left over. With God it is not *just enough* it is *more, and to spare*.

Notice Jesus *does* nothing. The servants fill the water jars, the servants draw the water/wine out, the servants take it to the steward. Jesus says no words

over the water, neither does he make any gesture, or touch it. This is not magic, this is the power of God. All Jesus does is give some simple instructions to the servants. They act, and it is done. God's power does the rest, and through the agency of the servants. Is this not a powerful sign for us? A strong example of the way to be? We can wait all our lives for a miracle, or we can act on the simple instructions God has given us, and allow God to transform us, our lives and our actions. God does not ask the impossible of us. 'Love one another' is straightforward. Oh of course, that tests our patience at times and at others hurt makes it seem so difficult. Yet it is not impossible. Love one another, serve one another. Love God. We can do this!

### Intercessions *(Jenny)*

Lord of celebration, take the everyday water of our lives, and all that seems ordinary and humdrum, and infuse it with your splendour. Raise our eyes to the wonder of your creation. Give us a glimpse of our part in the cosmos, as we lose ourselves in wonder, love and praise.

Lord, we thank you for all who transform and help to improve the lives of those in our community in practical ways. Show us how to recognize these gifts, and to encourage one another to work together for the common good.

Lord, look with your love and compassion on all who are suffering, those who are exhausted, and those who do not know which way to turn next, that out of their distress may come healing and wholeness, and the comfort of your presence.

Lord, we pray for the church which is your body in the world. Deliver us from fear and judgementalism and exclusivity, and teach us true humility.

Lord we pray for the departed, and we remember with thanks all those who have enriched our lives. Grant them everlasting joy in the marriage feast of heaven.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

The Wedding At Cana    *Dennis Donald*

We really wanted Mary  
but you know the way it goes.  
The invitation list just  
simply grows and grows and grows.

I can't remember who it was  
said Jesus should come through;  
We put him on the list, and  
found another dozen too.

The sun shone on the nuptials,  
they were very carefully planned,  
But nobody expected  
how the wine supply would land,

The party gained momentum  
as the wine supply grew shorter,  
When Jesus said, "Those big stone jars,  
just fill them up with water."

Water needs conserving,  
folk won't think it very fine  
To take it by the gallon,  
and just turn it into wine!

So all eyes turned to Mary,  
not to those who'd just been wed,  
And calmly she instructed  
them to do as he had said.

They staggered and they struggled  
'till they'd filled them to the brim,  
Then, drawing off the water,  
served a wine as rich as Him.

Readings for next Sunday    Epiphany 3    23 Jan 22

Nehemiah 8: 1 – 3, 5 – 6, 8 – 10      Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 31a              Luke 4: 14 – 21

## Activities and Future Events

[www.trinityelgin.org](http://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](mailto: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

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

Prayer group Wed 10.30 am on Zoom. Contact Jenny (07950 830017)

### Youth Fellowship

YF is currently taking a break for prelims, and will restart after.



The Provincial youth event planned for Montrose in early February has had to be cancelled. Instead, we have planned an online Burns Night Celebration and Ceilidh. For more info please contact Tembu.

Calling all gardeners. We are meeting THIS TUE 18 Jan at 10am to have a tidy up of the front garden after the winter debris. Any queries speak to Lynne T.

Need contact details? If ever you're wanting to speak to someone in our churches and can't find their details – please contact the leaflet and we'll do our best to put you in touch.

Mothers' Union. The next meeting is THIS WED 19 Jan at 2pm in Holy Trinity church. Tembu will be coming to talk to us. Meeting are open to everyone.

Leaving a legacy for the church is a quick and easy process. Legacies can help to secure our long-term financial security. If you would like to have a confidential discussion about a legacy for the church, please speak to Gordon Barron, our Legacy Officer. Tel: 01343 547188.

Diary.

Tue 18 Jan HT Front garden tidy up. 10 am

Wed 19 Jan MU 2 pm in HT

Sun 30 Jan Choral Evensong for Candlemas 1800 at HT

Wed 2 Mar Ash Wednesday

Sun 6 Mar Evensong for Lent 1800 HT

Oh oh! Just realized – time to put in another Gift Aid claim. I do that 4 times a year, but once you've set up your arrangements you only need to review them when you want. To start, increase or change your regular giving in any way, please contact Kate. 835133 or [GiftAid@trinityelgin.org](mailto:GiftAid@trinityelgin.org)  
For legacies please speak to Gordon Barron. 547188

News from Barbados!! Well, sort of. This is how Stephen answered my question about coping with dreary winter days:

I imagine that we're back in Barbados, with all our many wonderful friends at Hometown Methodist Church. They prayed publicly from their lovely pews for me, throughout my life threatening illness: quite the most vibrant congregation I have ever encountered, across all age ranges. The Church is full to overflowing literally every Sunday, it's very uplifting.

Thank you for sending this in, Stephen. What do other folk do to cheer themselves up in winter? We'd love to hear from you.

***And finally . . . . .***

**NEGLIGENT** – The condition in which you absent-mindedly answer the door in your nightie.

*Word definition sent in by Lynne Taylor.*

Priest in Charge: The Revd Tembu Rongong  
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Items for next week's leaflet should be with Kate by Wednesday evening  
[pewleaflet@trinityelgin.org](mailto:pewleaflet@trinityelgin.org) or 01343 835133