

# 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 17 Jul 22 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday services are at 9.30 am in St Margaret's, Lossiemouth and at 11.15 am in Holy Trinity, Elgin. Face coverings aren't required but please feel welcome to wear one if you prefer. The person distributing communion will continue to wear a face covering. 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 available the first Sunday of the month 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 18 Jul** Jane Haining (from 17 Jul)

**Thurs 21 Jul** William Wilberforce

**Tue 19 Jul**

**Fri 22 Jul** MARY MAGDALENE

**Wed 20 Jul**

**Sat 23 Jul**

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year C Weekdays Year 2

Week of: Proper 16 Daily Prayer: Week C

## Collect

O God of power and might, all good things belong to you: sow in our hearts the love of your name, and make us grow in the life of faith; nurture the things that are good, and tend them with your loving care; 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 Genesis 18: 1 – 10a

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on – since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.'

## Psalm Ps 15

Response *Those who do what is right will dwell in the presence of the Lord.*

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? who may abide upon your holy hill? Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, who speaks the truth from his heart. **R**

There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; he does not heap contempt upon his neighbour. In his sight the wicked are rejected, but he honours those who fear the Lord. **R**

He has sworn to do no wrong and does not take back his word. He does not give his money in hope of gain, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things shall never be overthrown. **R**

## Second Reading

Colossians 1: 15 – 28

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him – provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel. I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

## GOSPEL

Luke 10: 38 – 42

Now as Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

## Reflection (*Jenny*)

Colossae, in the time of Christ, was a small town in the beautiful Lycus Valley, about 100 miles east of the city of Ephesus, in what we now call Turkey. It was probably during the Paul's 3 year stay in Ephesus that a Christian group became established in Colossae.

But over time trouble began brewing. The Christians there had started to introduce ideas from other religions and philosophies and to give them as much importance as the Christian message. There were Greeks and Jews in the Colossian church as well as the native Phrygians. Each group wanted to cling on to their own rituals, their food laws and festivals, and to incorporate them into Christianity. Their arguments and disagreements became a direct challenge to the supremacy of Christ.

When Paul, in AD 61, was a prisoner in Rome, he became concerned about the worrying news about the Christians in Colossae, and so from his prison cell he wrote to them. The passage we read today comes from his letter, the one we know as the Letter to the Colossians.

Paul's message to the Colossians, riven by a growing indifference to the central message of Christ, is something that we still need to hear today. Instead of following a false set of values, we must cling to the simple fact that Christ's own life at work within us is all we need to keep us on the right track. "In Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell".

When we hear the familiar story of Mary and Martha, we may wonder how we fit into it. Are we activists like Martha, scurrying about being busy or are we more contemplative people like Mary? Trying to keep a balance between action and reflection is important, but for me the real lesson from our readings today is shouting out at us in Paul's words to the Colossians: he sweeps aside our agonising about whether God wants us to be active or passive, or whether we need to stick to any particular ritual or custom as the ancient Colossians wanted to do. He declares and celebrates the solution: always remember, Christ is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the Church. If we keep those words ringing in our ears this week, we will be on the right track.

I can't help wondering if the Christians in that little town of Colossae started to change their ways when they heard Paul's letter read out to them, when they were reminded that in Christ all believers can find all they need.

Amen.

## Intercessions *(Judith)*

Creator God, on this ordinary Sunday in July, we offer our prayers to you. We thank you for the life-giving rays of the sun shining on our world, which brings warmth and happiness to many. We pray for people in countries where the sun is so hot that the temperatures are life-threatening and water is scarce. As climate change makes problems worse, we pray for all governments and NGOs, that progress may be made towards reducing carbon emissions and sticking to carbon neutral pledges made so recently at COP26. Help us to be the ones who change our habits for the sake of all who are affected the most.

Teacher God, we pray for all who are involved in the care and education of our children and young people. Help us to be supportive and encourage them in their often hard task. Whilst our schools and colleges are on holiday, may everyone have a time of rest, relaxation and recovery as they reflect on the recent difficult years. We pray that children and parents, and extended family and friends, may benefit from time spent together, healing fractured relationships and building new ones.

Provider God, we often see images of happy smiling families relaxing around barbecues or setting off on holidays to get some sun. But we know that in many families, there is little sunshine where summer brings no let-up in the struggle to make ends meet. We pray for all who cannot afford holidays or to take time off work, as they need to provide food and homes for their families. At this time of financial hardship for so many, we pray for the agencies and charities that provide food, clothes, debt advice or safe spaces to listen. Help us to stand up to injustice and make systems fairer and more compassionate.

Holy God, we pray for all churches. As many activities have stopped for much needed summer holidays, may we take the time to enjoy the slower pace, seeing it as a gift to us all. Help us to re-focus on you at the centre of everything we enjoy. When you came to be one of us, you came to bring us life and to have it abundantly. As we enjoy the stillness and silence, may we keep our promises to you so that we may make more space for you in our lives. Gently remind us why we come to church – so that we will love both you and our neighbours more fully.

God of July, Lord of the year, lead us through this month with faith, hope and love. AMEN

*Prayers adapted from "The Intercessions Resource Book"  
by The Rt. Rev John Pritchard.*

Please pray for: William Stuart, Jim Taylor, Andy Roberson, Ian and Ann Bartholomew, and Carol Wetherell.

Brew and blether after the service – in HT small hall or at the back of St M  
Many thanks to our servers. New volunteers welcome.

### Morning Prayer

O Jesus Christ, all thanks be to thee,  
Who hast brought me safely through last night,  
To the morning joy of this day's light,  
To win everlasting life for me,  
Through the blood that thou hast shed for me

O God, for ever praise be to thee,  
For the blessings thou bestow'st on me –  
For my food, my work, my health, my speech,  
For all the good gifts bestowed on each,  
O God, for ever praise be to thee.

I pray thee now to shield me from woe,  
From sinning, this night to consecrate,  
God of the poor, and I poor and low,  
O Christ of the wounds, thy wisdom great  
Along with thy grace on me bestow.

May the Holy One make claim on me,  
And protect me on the land and sea,  
Step by step leading me on my way  
To the City of e'erlasting day,  
Peace of the City that lasts for aye.

*One of Mary LW's favourite prayers,  
from "Praying with Highland Christians" by G R D McLean*

## 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, but not during summer hols.

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 Summer Holidays!! We'll be back in mid–August.

Gardening. The next working party at HT is THIS TUE 19 JUL, 10am onwards. We're making progress, thanks to the small band of workers.

Mothers' Union. Shared lunch with extras, THIS WED 20 JUL, 12.30 pm in HT large hall. We will ask for a donation of £2 towards the food instead of having to bring something. Any queries ask 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 (*bottom of p8*) and we'll do our best to put you in touch.

Please **USE** all  
the **WATER** you need,  
but please use it  
**WISELY.**

*Popular sign from when I lived in the Mojave desert, relevant here now.*

Readings for next Sunday 24 Jul 22 Pentecost 7

Genesis 18: 20 – 32

Psalm 138

Colossians 2: 6 – 15, (16 – 19)

Luke 11: 1 – 13

## Diary

Wed 20 Jul MU picnic in HT hall. 12.30pm

Sun 31 Jul Communion service at Burghead.

Thurs 4 Aug St M 10 am service then Bring and Share lunch

Sun 2 Oct St M Harvest

Wed 5 Oct St M Chippy and fundraiser

Leaving a legacy for the church is a quick and easy process and can help our long-term financial security. For a confidential discussion about a legacy for the church, please speak to Gordon Barron, our Legacy Officer. Tel: 01343 547188. For regular giving and Gift Aid, please contact Kate. 835133 or [GiftAid@trinityelgin.org](mailto:GiftAid@trinityelgin.org)

News from my desk. It's been a week of lovely weather, the tide times have been just right for swimming, and there's a lot of ripe fruit to be picked. But I decided this was the week I would do the next Gift Aid claim, meaning I would be stuck at my desk, typing numbers into spreadsheets and making sure all the details needed by HMRC are correct. I'm lucky that Jill and Lynne keep accurate records from each church, but even so I like to go slowly so that I don't make mistakes. I have to confess progress on this claim has been extra slow... because... there has been... calm swimming one day, tossing around in the waves another, a good lot of lengths in the pool, a visit from fruit picking friends, a meal out with friends, several brews with several other friends, a bit of ladder footing as my man does battle with overgrown hedges and – I got my leeks planted out. Oh well, I guess I'll be at my desk again next week. I promise that by the next "news from" the claim will have been submitted!

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

The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time.

*Bertrand Russell*

Priest in Charge: The Revd Tembu Rongong  
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[Rector@trinityelgin.org](mailto:Rector@trinityelgin.org)

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