

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 18 Apr 21 Third Sunday of Easter

There are in-person services at both Holy Trinity and St Margaret's, though in a limited way, with strict precautions and limits on numbers. There is be a booking system for those wishing to attend.

The pew leaflet will continue to be produced, containing prayers, readings and reflections that we can all share in. We will continue to be a worshipping community from our homes, supporting each other and sharing our love, though at a distance. An online service will be available each week on our YouTube channel, in addition to the Provincial services. (Links on page 7)

This leaflet comes out each week. 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.

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

Mon 19 Apr

Tues 20 Apr

Maelrubha of Applecross

Wed 21 Apr

Anselm of Canterbury

Thurs 22 Apr

Fri 23 Apr George

Sat 24 Apr

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year B Weekdays Year 1

Week of Easter 3 Daily Prayer: New Life: The Lord

Collect

O God, who, in the death and resurrection of your Son, have raised up this fallen world: may we and all your people, whom you have saved from the gates of everlasting death, rejoice in your eternal presence; 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 3: 12 – 19

Peter addressed the people, ‘You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.’

Psalm Ps 4

Response *Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.*

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. ‘You mortals, how long will you dishonour my glory; how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?’ **R**

Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me. Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed. **R**

Offer the appointed sacrifices and put your trust in the Lord. Many are saying, ‘O that we might see better times!’ Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord. **R**

You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine and oil increase. I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **R**

Second Reading I John 3: 1 – 7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

GOSPEL Luke 24: 36b – 48

While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

Reflection

We are children of God. This shows how much God loves us. We are not slaves, not acquaintances, but children. That says a lot. We are part of God's family. We are not God's employees, or workers but instead heirs and beloved of God. That is a cherished status, and for our Christian life this means so much. God's mission on this earth is to reach each and every person with the knowledge and reality of God's love for them. We are part of that mission. As workers we would expect to *have* to do this. It would be our job, our duty. As children, though, it is part of our family life, our future, our inheritance. We gladly join in God's mission because we love God, and spreading the love of God is what we do, because it is what our family does.

We are also children. That is incredibly important. We are not in charge, though we have an honoured place. We have a role to play, though success or failure does not depend on us. We make mistakes, get grumpy, tired or cry, and God's response to us is not what we think or expect. Most people reading this will be adults, and as adults we expect to be in charge, be responsible, be blamed. As adults then, we have put God in the place of big boss, terrifying judge, overlord and master. This is not how God sees it! We are children, because God is so much bigger, so much older and so so much more loving than we are.

Not convinced? See how Jesus is with his disciples. Jesus stands amongst them and they are terrified. He says 'peace be with you' and they think he is a ghost. He shows them his hands and his feet and invites them to touch him to prove he is solid and they still disbelieve. So he asks to eat in front of them, and they give him fish to eat. He eats. Finally they begin to believe he is real. Jesus is not a messenger of God, he is God as human come amongst us. If he is patient and loving with his disciples, he is showing us how God is with us. Patient with disbelief, loving with our terrors and fears. Which parent is furious with a child for being afraid? If we as humans manage to comfort a child's fears, how much more does God want to comfort us, love us, and reach out to us?

Intercessions

May God be glorified as we commit ourselves to the work of prayer in our intercessions for those in all kinds of need.

We pray for the witness of the church at this time, when many are seeking for greater meaning in life. We pray for all who serve the church, especially Mark, Tembu and Jenny. We ask for openness to the Spirit of Life.

We pray for those offering welfare and support to the hungry and homeless as well as to all whose lives have been so disrupted by the pandemic. We pray for our leaders that they may act in the interests of all in order to bring justice and fairness to our society.

We pray for families and schools, for their commitment to doing their best for their children, for tireless forgiveness and constant encouragement so needed by young people as they try to resume their normal lives at school.

We give thanks for all those whose work of nursing, caring and healing in the daily struggle brings comfort to those in pain and in distress. We ask You, Lord, to hold those who suffer close to you, bring them hope and ease their pain.

We pray for those in their twilight years, those facing death. May God be glorified in lives well lived and now breaking into eternity. We remember those who have died this week and especially Prince Phillip and ask for your comfort for those who mourn.

May God be glorified in the freedom offered through forgiveness, in the joy of Resurrection life and in the hope of eternity.

Thanks to Carleen for these prayers

Please pray for the sick, especially Andy Roberson, Ian and Ann Bartholomew, Carol Wetherell and Kay McGloan.

Scottish Episcopal Church prayer of commemoration for HRH Prince Philip.

Gracious God, giver of all life,
in whom our earthly course finds its fulfilment:
we give you thanks for the life of Philip, Duke of Edinburgh,
for his service to this nation, the Commonwealth, and humanity,
in war and in peace,
in the pursuit of knowledge,
and in his example of reverence for your creation.
We give thanks for the encouragement he offered to the young,
and for his faithful support for Elizabeth our Queen.
We pray that, as you receive him into your presence,
his family and all who mourn may know your comfort
in the assurance that death is swallowed up in victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God,
now and in eternity.
Amen.

O Holy Spirit, giver of light and life,
impart to us thoughts better than our own thoughts,
and prayers better than our own prayers,
and powers better than our own powers,
That we may spend and be spent
in the ways of love and goodness,
after the perfect image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen

Eric Milner-White and GW Briggs, Daily Prayer (1941)

The Prayer Group is using Zoom to keep up the work of praying for local and worldwide concerns. Please ask via the pew leaflet if you'd like to be put in touch with a member of the prayer group who will make sure that everyone's privacy is respected.

Readings for next Sunday 25 Apr 21 Easter 4

Acts 4: 5 – 12

Psalm 23

1 John 3: 16 – 24

John 10: 11 – 18

Activities and Future Events
www.trinityelgin.org

Activities currently suspended due to Covid-19 precautions.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals – please contact 01343 547505.
Tembu’s normal day off is 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 – with psalm & virtual singers hymn (Usually available from 9 am on Sundays)	Thursdays 10 am HT 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 On Tuesday evenings (apart from the first week of the month) we have Bible study. Once a month, we have a themed evening.

You are in a room, the door is locked, there are no windows. There is no way out, you have some clues, but where is the key? We had our escape room on Sunday evening via Zoom. Our YF did really well solving all 4 sets of clues in just over an hour to escape. Next month we are hoping to meet in person (*I know — exciting!*) outside to play games, in Forres (weather permitting!!)

Gift Aid. I'm working on the end of year claim. It wouldn't be possible without all you lovely people who give regularly. Thank you! Please do get in touch if you need more info about Gift Aid, or giving by envelope scheme, bank transfers and standing orders.

Kate. 01343 835133 or GiftAid@trinityelgin.org

Traidcraft stall. Let's keep supporting the producers of our favourite luxuries and keep our stall going. If you would like tea, coffee, sugar, rice, pasta, chocolate, sweets or any other of Traidcraft's huge and varied range, please let me know by 26th April so that I can put in our order at the end of April. Thanks, Judith. fairtradestall@trinityelgin.org

50+ CLUB Monthly draws will start up again in June. To join or to renew your membership please get in touch with Catherine, Lynne T or Maureen C (Ask pew leaflet HQ (below) for contact details). It's still £12 per number.

Apology Very sorry to those whose Easter card and Palm cross came through with extra postage needed. Some of the finished envelopes turned out to be too thick for our postage. I didn't check thoroughly as they were all ok last year, so apologies to those involved. Tembu

Good to get a card and palm cross, whatever, so thank you for all that work!

News from.....

Definitely a deskbound sort of week for me, but I have seen a Sparrowhawk, and the first peacock butterfly and red tailed bumblebee of the season. The geese are still with us and no swallows yet. What news from your world?

And finally.....

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift.
That's why we call it the "present".

Priest in Charge: The Revd Tembu Rongong
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Rector@trinityelgin.org

Items for next Sunday's leaflet should be with Kate by Wednesday evening.
pewleaflet@trinityelgin.org or 01343 835133