

# 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 24 Jul 22 7th 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 25 Jul** JAMES

**Tue 26 Jul** Anne and Joachim

**Wed 27 Jul** John Comper

**Thurs 28 Jul**

**Fri 29 Jul** Martha and Mary of  
Bethany

**Sat 30 Jul** Silas

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year C Weekdays Year 2

Week of: Proper 17 Daily Prayer: Week D

## Collect

O God, whose providence orders all things in heaven and earth: keep from us everything harmful, and lead us to all that is good; 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: 20 – 32

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre and said, ‘How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.’ So the men turned from there, and went towards Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. Then Abraham came near and said, ‘Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?’ And the LORD said, ‘If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.’ Abraham answered, ‘Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?’ And he said, ‘I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.’ Again Abraham spoke to the LORD, ‘Suppose forty are found there.’ He answered, ‘For the sake of forty I will not do it.’ Then Abraham said, ‘Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.’ The LORD answered, ‘I will not do it, if I find thirty there.’ Abraham said, ‘Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.’ The LORD answered, ‘For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.’ Then he said, ‘Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.’ The LORD answered, ‘For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.’

## Psalm Ps 138

Response *When I called, you answered me, O Lord*

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise. I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your

name, because of your love and faithfulness; For you have glorified your name and your word above all things. **R**

When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me. All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth. They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord. Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; he perceives the haughty from afar. **R**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me. The Lord will make good his purpose for me; O Lord, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands. **R**

Second Reading          Colossians 2: 6 – 15

Brothers and sisters, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

GOSPEL          Luke 11: 1 – 13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the

time of trial.’ And he said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.” And he answers from within, “Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.” I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

### Reflection *(Philip)*

I remember as a teenager, sitting in a mission outreach meeting which was being led by an ex-South African Test cricketer and captain, Trevor Goddard. He subsequently wrote a book, which is a memoir of his life after cricket, called “Caught in the Deep”. He told us of an incident when he was fielding in a tight match, and promised God that if he caught the high ball, that he would attend church on the following Sunday. This analogy has stuck with me all these years, as I have recognised how I have bargained with God in my life. I must say, with limited success.

When bargaining with a merchant, you hold the money and he holds the merchandise. You each have something the other person wants, so you have some bargaining power. But when it comes to God, He holds everything.

The first instance of intercessory prayer found in the Bible shows Abraham bargaining with God! The story reveals some lessons on prayer.

Prayer is absolutely essential in our walk with God. We cannot make progress in the Christian life without growing in prayer. Every historic move of the Holy Spirit in the church is laid in a foundation of prayer. Last week we read that Abraham was sitting at his tent door in the heat of the day when he looked up, saw and interacted with three normal-looking men. As he learned before the day was over, he was entertaining angels without knowing it (Heb 13:2). As these men rose to go, they cast an ominous glance toward

Sodom, where Abraham's nephew, Lot, was living. Abraham picked up on God's purpose and, based on his understanding of God's justice, appealed to God to spare Sodom if there were but 50 righteous people there. From there Abraham bargained God down to sparing Sodom if only ten righteous people could be found there. We can learn three things from Abraham about prayer...

### **1. Prayer must be based on a knowledge of God's purpose.**

Prayer is not to get our will done, but to get God's will done, unlike Trevor Goddard's example. To be effective, prayer must be in accordance with His will. If we want to be successful in prayer, we must grow in our knowledge of God's purpose. How do we do that? God reveals His purpose to His friends. Abraham was known as the friend of God (2 Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8; James 2:23). Psalm 25:14 states, "The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant." The Lord Jesus told His disciples, "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

### **2. God's grace encourages us to draw near in prayer**

Being the friend of God, Abraham knew God, including His character and attributes. This knowledge drew him on in prayer, to the point where he was bold enough to bargain with God.

### **3. God's mercy and justice gives balance to our prayers.**

Abraham was aware that God is both merciful, in that He will spare even the wicked on behalf of a few righteous, but He is also just. He sees and will judge all sins. This knowledge of God's person tempered Abraham's prayer. We err when we think that prayer is a way to make everyone happy. That's how we should pray. We may never understand why or how God works out His eternal plan in cooperation with the prayers of His saints, but He does! Therefore let us get to know God, befriending him so that we can determine His purpose. Live in His grace, understand His mercy and justice, so that we can have the privilege of praying for the world.

### Intercessions (Maureen)

Loving God, we come before you to offer our prayers of Thankfulness.

We are thankful for all who volunteer, selflessly offering their time and energy to serve you, the church, and our community. You know who you are, and we

thank you.

Loving God, thank you for the many planned and unexpected encounters we have received this week, for words of wisdom, gifts of encouragement, and offers of help and support from surprising people. Loving God, we thank you for all that they do.

Loving God, we thank you for Tembu, Jenny and Philip, who help to root us in the faith through your Word, your Son Christ Jesus the Lord.

Loving God, you freely help us establish our faith, hear your Word, and grow in strength and wisdom, enabling us to care for one another without judgement. So, we come together to sing and praise your glorious name.

Loving God, we are asked to forgive all who sin or offend us and move and guide us from darkness to light where we are raised and made alive together with him; we to trust in your power and glory to see us through.

Loving God be with all affected by climate change, the fires, drought, and death. Loving God, encircle all and help with the healing. Show us where we are needed and how we can make a difference so that the world will be a good place for all your people. Please help us to live for Jesus wherever we go.

Amen

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.

Readings for next Sunday 31 Jul 22 Pentecost 8

Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12 – 14; 2: 18 – 23

Psalm 49: 1 – 12

Colossians 3: 1 – 11

Luke 12: 13 – 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, but not during summer hols.

Mothers' Union 3rd Wed of the month, 2 pm in HT hall (Not in Aug or Sep)

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 at HT. The next working party will be at 10 am on Tue 2 Aug.  
All welcome.

50+ Club July Draw

1st John Taylor 2nd Ann Dartnall 3rd Heather McLeod

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.

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.

*Smell the sea, and feel the sky. Let your soul and spirit fly.*

*Van Morrison*

## Diary

Sun 31 Jul Communion service at Burghead.

Tue 2 Aug 10 am Gardening at HT

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

Claim's in! Despite last week's distractions I did send in a claim for a tax refund on money received in April, May and June. I'm hoping that HMRC will soon send us just over £2,300. Thanks to those of you who are taxpayers, have filled in a Gift Aid declaration and have donated during that period. It's all quite simple – contact me for more info.

Kate. 835133 or [GiftAid@trinityelgin.org](mailto:GiftAid@trinityelgin.org)

Sticky news. I received a lovely letter from one of our readers this week; it made my day to know how much the leaflet is enjoyed. I was also encouraged to "keep picking". Well! That's all very well, but we can't eat all that fruit straight away so I've had to get busy preserving. I've made jam, I've made jelly, I've stewed fruit to keep in the freezer and I've made lovely raspberry coulis for swirling into yoghurt or ice cream. I've also splattered myself with sticky juice time and again – I got through 3 t-shirts yesterday. The kitchen floor and bench have been pretty sticky from time to time, too! Even picking fruit on a muggy afternoon is sticky work. But – you know me – always one to take time off! I've headed down to the beach for lots of long, lovely swims in perfect conditions. Oh Oh! Changing in the car park can be awkward. Damp, salty skin is very STICKY!

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

How much easier it is to be critical than to be correct.

*Benjamin Disraeli*

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