

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 25 Apr 21 Fourth 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 26 Apr MARK (from 25 Apr)

Tues 27 Apr
Albert Earnest Laurie (from 26 Apr)

Wed 28 Apr

Thurs 29 Apr Catherine of Siena

Fri 30 Apr

Sat 1 May PHILIP AND JAMES

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year B Weekdays Year 1

Week of Easter 4 Daily Prayer: New Life: The Lord

Collect

O God, the light of whose truth stretches out to those who go astray, that they may return to the path of righteousness: give your grace to all who profess themselves Christians, that they may cast out what is harmful, and pursue all that gives life; 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 4: 5 – 12

The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Psalm Ps 23

Response *The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over. Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **R**

Second Reading 1 John 3: 16 – 24

We know love by this, that the Son of God laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases God. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

GOSPEL John 10: 11 – 18

Jesus said to the Pharisees: ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

Reflection

Jesus tells the Pharisees he is the good shepherd, and he contrasts the actions of the shepherd with that of the hireling. The shepherd owns the sheep, the sheep are his livelihood, he cares for them, knows them and he is willing to lay down his life for them. The hireling is not. When the wolf comes, the hireling runs away because he does not care for the sheep.

Fundamentally, it is just a job for the hireling. Although this sounds a warm and fuzzy story about woolly sheep, it is not. Jesus is squarely pointing the finger at the Pharisees and telling them they are like the hireling. When danger comes, when the sheep need them most, they run away. Effectively, they leave them to die. Jesus is the good shepherd, and he is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. That is, the people.

Of course, the word is 'lay down' not throw away. There is nothing foolish and wastrel about Jesus' words. He will not run unwittingly into danger, but if the wolves gather he, the good shepherd, will defend the sheep up to and including with his life.

In the reading from 1 John, this same theme is explored, but now with some action for us to follow as well. *'We know love by this, that the Son of God laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.'*

Jesus is our example, our goal, and if he is willing to lay down his life for others, so we follow him in doing that ourselves.

What does it mean to lay down our lives for others? What would it look like?

C. S. Lewis writes in the Screwtape Letters an example not to follow: "She's the sort of woman who lives for others – you can tell the others by their hunted expression."! The key here is need. The John passage continues... *'How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help'* What do people need? How would we find out? When we look at Jesus each time he meets with a blind person, a deaf and dumb person, a woman with a sick child, he never assumes. He asks them, what do you want me to do. What would help. What do you need?

This is incredibly important, in our church life, our life of faith, our personal life. If we want to give, in response to what God asks. We need to know, what do people need? Not what will I give people. What will I think up or image people want, but to take the time to ask to find out. That is caring.

Finally, I love that Jesus says one more thing to the Pharisees: *I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.*

Jesus' care runs even wider than just us. Wider than this church, this nation, our people. Jesus wants all the peoples as one flock, with one shepherd. He wants all his people home... and that is a vision I can follow!

Intercessions

We your children come before you Lord to thank you for being our shepherd.

You have our gratitude for walking along side us and for loving and caring for us, for providing encouragement, and for guiding us along the many paths we travel on through life. Lord, as we face the brokenness of our world, we reflect upon all those who are suffering. Let each one know, Lord, that you are always in attendance, always present. You are the essential cornerstone that enables us to build our lives within the commandments that you set. You Lord, walk with us, as we progress in a direction not always of your choosing. Through your continuing presence you inspire us, you nurture us and care for us. You allow us the time to rest, to speak with you and even to shout at you before setting us back towards the correct path. We thank you for accompanying us and providing comfort as we travel along life's often difficult path.

We appreciate your guidance, as we your church face the newness of life in all it's glory. We pray for the wisdom and courage of the Gender in Liturgy committee as they work with the wider church. Guide and protect them from the many challenging decisions ahead, in the hope of improving the language being used within the churches, and that which will be sustained for years to come.

As we rest in your presence Lord, and take comfort in knowing that wherever we go, you Lord will be by our side. Your everlasting love is with us, through the darkest of times, when you provide us with strength and courage to the brightest of times, when we can share our joy with you and marvel at your wisdom.

Lord, through your loving care we come gladly to you, opening our hearts in truth and love. Open our eyes Lord, and let us witness the fullness of that eternal light that illuminates our pathway so we can all comprehend your wondrous gifts that you share with us and allow us to be strengthened and guided by the spirit that abides in us to fulfil your works. We ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

Thanks to Maureen for these prayers

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

Please pray for the family and friends of Joan Prentice R.I.P. whose funeral was this Thursday.

My Sort of Profile by Joan Prentice

I have written a lot of poems since reaching seventy-nine,
yes, a little late in starting, that's why I'm far behind.
People are astounded when they hear about my age.
Some think that I'm an oddity, and should be in a cage.
In early years I read the works of poets so admired.
Never thought that I would write, long after I'd retired,
But here I am, a born again or something of that nature,
three hundred poems I've written, putting pen to paper.
In anthologies I've done so well, "Should I ask for more?"
Well if our Lord is willing, I might open further doors!
My husband and my children, time was spent on them,
after my Dear ones illness it was time to fight again.
Like the Phoenix from the ashes maybe my time is here,
I'm recovering from my losses as I write away my tears.

Collect for St Mark

Almighty God, you have instructed your holy Church with the heavenly teaching of your evangelist, Saint Mark: give us grace, that we may be firmly grounded in its truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Collect for St Philip and St James

Almighty Father, to know you is eternal life: may we know your Son Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and the life; that, following the steps of your holy apostles, Philip and James, we may faithfully walk in the way that leads to your truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

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 2 May 21 Easter 5

Acts 8: 26 – 40

Psalm 22: 25 – 31

1 John 4: 7 – 21

John 15: 1 – 8

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. Next month we are hoping to meet in person (*I know — exciting!*) outside to play games, in Forres (weather permitting!!)

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 for contact details). It's still £12 per number and you can have as many numbers as you wish.

The money bit. Thanks to everyone who has gone to the trouble of sending cheques, doing bank transfers, starting standing orders or giving in any way. I've just submitted a claim, based on your gifts, which should bring us a Gift Aid refund of well over £5,000. For any help with giving please ask 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 TOMORROW, 26TH APRIL** so that I can put in our order at the end of April. Thanks, Judith. fairtradestall@trinityelgin.org

The wave that is joy by Ian Adams

When the wave that is joy comes let it carry you.
The waves that are fear are plentiful and must be ridden out,
causing you to lookback lest you are swamped.

But this season the wave that is joy seems elusive.
It must be watched for, but it will come.
And when it comes ride it with boldness.
Let it lift you up.
Look for the wave that is joy.

Sent in by Lynne T

And finally

Nothing is impossible, the word itself says "I'm possible".

Audrey Hepburn

Priest in Charge: The Revd Tembu Rongong
01343 547505
Rector@trinityelgin.org

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