

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



Christmas 25 Dec 21

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

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

Sun 26 Dec STEPHEN No Service.

Mon 27 Dec JOHN

Tue 28 Dec THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Wed 29 Dec
Thomas of Canterbury

Thurs 30 Dec Josephine Butler

Fri 31 Dec John Wycliffe

Sat 1 Jan 22 THE NAMING OF JESUS

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year C Weekdays Year 2

Week of Christmas Daily Prayer: Incarnation

Collect

O God our Father, the light of whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: grant that the radiance of that true light, which enlightens our minds by faith, may shine brightly through our words and deeds; 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.

First Reading Isaiah 52: 7 – 10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Psalm Ps 98

Response *All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.*

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory. **R**

The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. **R**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice and sing. Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

R

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein. Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth. In righteousness shall he judge the world, and the peoples with equity. **R**

Second Reading Hebrews 1: 1 – 12

2 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he

appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

GOSPEL John 1: 1 – 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Reflection *(Philip)*

When does or did Christmas start for you? The debate has always been, when is it okay to put up your tree, start eating mince pies, decorate your

home, think about buying gifts, start listening to Christmas music or sing carols, or put up your fairy lights?

The second part of the same question is, when is Christmas over? If ever? The 12 days of Christmas start on Christmas Day and run for almost the next two weeks, so it is okay to continue the festivities and celebrations for a while yet. I do love the build up to Christmas, during Advent, preparing for God to be with us, through the people of God, the prophets, John the Baptist and Mary, mother of God. (Hope, Peace, Love and Joy). The darker evenings, the warmth of the fire, the flicker of the fairy lights at home but also around the town. We have all probably driven or walked past those homes that have been lovely decorated with lights for us all to enjoy and stood in amazement and joy which those lights bring us.

In November the Guardian published an article about “returning to the dark days of Covid”. It can at times feel like darkness is all around us. The cold has set in, the evenings are long, and there does not seem to be an end in sight. A 2017 survey (4 years old, but) found that 64% of adults in the UK admitted that they do not like the dark. We have techniques available to help us – candles, lamps, torches. Think about our daily lives and how we use light: street lights, to illuminate our way; bicycle lights, to keep us safe; the lighthouse, to keep ships off the rocks and guide them into the harbour; flashing lights on emergency services, to clear the road for them; and automatic lights on our houses for safety.

God understood our fear, worry and uncertainty, and as Isaiah wrote all those years ago, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2) God made His move and became human to reach out to us. John knew it, as we read, “He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12) The poet–priest Malcolm Guite wrote the following about this Light:

I see your world in light that shines behind me,
Lit by a sun whose rays I cannot see,
The smallest gleam of light still seems to find me
Or find the child who’s hiding deep inside me.

I see your light reflected in the water,

Or kindled suddenly in someone's eyes,
It shimmers through the living leaves of summer,
Or spills from silver veins in leaden skies,
It gathers in the candles at our vespers
It concentrates in tiny drops of dew
At times it sings for joy, at times it whispers,
But all the time it calls me back to you.
I follow you upstream through this dark night
My saviour, source, and spring, my life and light.

This Christmas morning, let us recognise where we are with Christ and where we are standing in His light. Is He revealing what is hidden, helping us to know where we are, steering us away from danger or showing us the way ahead? We may still be in a place where we are struggling but in the words of Leonard Cohen...

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.

The light of the world was born this day and "what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Have a blessed Christmas in the light.

Intercessions

Jesus Christ, born in a stable,
Be with the poor and homeless this Christmas

As we pray, **live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

(Silent prayer)

Jesus Christ, born of Mary,
Be with all people across the world this difficult Christmas time.

As we pray, **live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

(Silent prayer)

Jesus Christ, visited by Shepherds,
Be with all who have to work this Christmas, and those who long to work.
Continue strengthening each person as we navigate this next wave and strain

of Covid and let us not be complacent.

As we pray, **live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

(Silent prayer)

Jesus Christ who became a refugee, Be with those who fear for their lives, and those who have left homes and families this Christmas.

As we pray, **live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

Amen

Thanks to Maureen for these prayers

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

Christmas Daybreak

Before the paling of the stars,
Before the winter morn,
Before the earliest Cockcrow,
Jesus Christ was born:
Born in a stable,
Cradled in a manger,
In the world His hands had made,
Born a stranger

Priest and king lay fast asleep
In Jerusalem,
Young and old lay fast asleep
In crowded Bethlehem:
Saint and angel, ox and ass,
Kept a watch together,
Before the Christmas daybreak
In the winter weather.

Jesus on His Mother's breast
In the stable cold.
Spotless Lamb of God was He,
Shepherd of the fold.
Let us kneel with Mary Maid,
With Joseph bent and hoary,
With saint and angel, ox and ass,
To hail the King of Glory

Christina Georgina Rosetti

Activities and Future Events

www.trinityelgin.org

Baptisms, weddings and funerals – please contact 01343 547505.

Tembu's normal days off are Friday and Saturday.

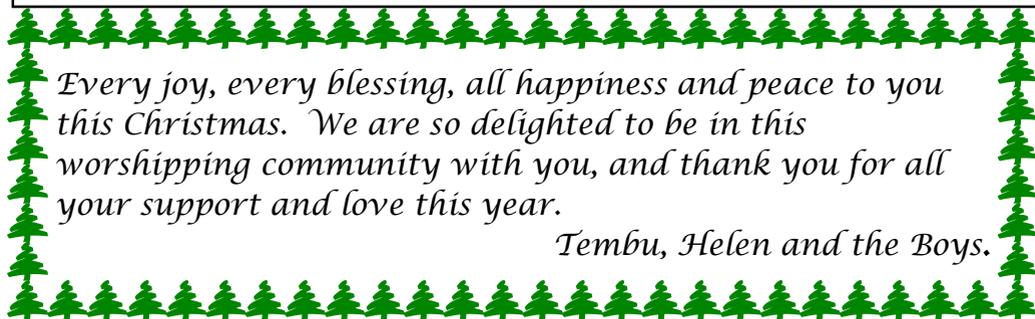
The Youth Fellowship If you are S1–S6 and would like to join us please get in touch with Tembu at rector@trinityelgin.org

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)



*Every joy, every blessing, all happiness and peace to you
this Christmas. We are so delighted to be in this
worshipping community with you, and thank you for all
your support and love this year.*

Tembu, Helen and the Boys.

Youth Fellowship

YF starts up again in January and there is a Provincial youth event planned for Montrose in early February. Contact Tembu.

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 (below) and we'll do our best to put you in touch.

Thank you to the rest of the leaflet team for their tireless work this year; Jackie and Bob for printing and posting out, John for putting it onto the web, and all the people who write intercessions and reflections. Thanks, too, to anyone who has sent notices of any sort and to all the lovely people who have taken time to thank us. Happy Christmas!

Readings for next Sunday Christmas 2 2 Jan 22

Jeremiah 31: 7 – 14 Psalm 147: 12 – 20

Ephesians 1: 3 – 14 John 1: (1 – 9) 10 – 18

Diary.

Fri 24 Dec Christingle Service 5 pm, HT

Fri 24 Dec Midnight Mass 2330 HT

Sat 25 Dec Christmas Eucharist 0930 at St M and 1115 at HT

Sun 26 Dec No services.

Sun 30 January Choral Evensong for Candlemas. 1800 at HT

Giving. Whether you'd like to give a special gift at Christmas, want to update your regular giving, sort out Gift Aid or discuss a legacy, we're always here to help. Please contact Kate. 835133 or GiftAid@trinityelgin.org For legacies please speak to Gordon Barron.

No news is good news?

Well, I've been racking my brains to think what news I might tell you this week, but quite honestly there isn't anything to report except the delicious madness of Christmas preparations. Friends are reporting in with news from their year enclosed in Christmas cards. I love that! There's a tree in the house. Even if it didn't have all those lights and all the decorations collected over lots of years in lots of places, I love that we do something as daft as having a whole big tree – indoors. Neighbours' families are slowly trickling back from Uni or work. It'll be great to catch up with the youngsters – even if it's only over the fence or round the fire pit. I just hope that your plans haven't been scuppered and that you can enjoy whatever comes your way this Christmas. Thank you for your lovely comments about my "news from" ramblings. Lots of love and "make the most of the small stuff". 

And finally

Probably the reason we all go so haywire at Christmas time with the endless unrestrained and often silly buying of gifts is that we don't quite know how to put our love into words.

Harlan Miller

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

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