

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 26 Sep 21

Harvest

There are in-person services at both Holy Trinity and St Margaret's, and restrictions are gradually and carefully being removed. There is no longer any need to book, but we still need to keep records for Test and Protect. Don't forget your face covering!

This leaflet will continue to come out each week, containing prayers, readings and reflections that we can all share in. 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.

Online services are available on our YouTube channel, in addition to the Provincial services. (Links on page 7)

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

Mon 27 Sep Vincent de Paul

Tues 28 Sep

Wed 29 Sep

MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

Thurs 30 Sep Jerome

Fri 1 Oct Gregory the Enlightener

Sat 2 Oct

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year B Weekdays Year 1

Week of Proper 26 Daily Prayer: Week C

Collect

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Joel 2: 21 – 27

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Psalm Ps 126

Response: *Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R**

Then they said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’ The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. **R**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev. Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. **R**

Second Reading 1 Timothy 6: 6 – 10

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

GOSPEL Matthew 6: 25 – 33

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.’

Reflection

Harvest is a time when we think about growing things, about thankfulness, fullness, generosity and abundance. We give thanks to God for all of God’s goodness and generosity towards us. We also give thanks to those who produce our food—whether farmers, fishers, bakers, producers, transporters, packers and deliverers. Maybe we do remember these people in our prayers at other times. Certainly during the

pandemic we realised just how vital the people are who get our food to us from field to cupboard. It is right we give thanks to God for our food, and for the people who make it appear (almost by magic) in shops and supermarkets for our need.

This is also the time when we think about the world God has given into our care. About our stewardship of the earth and her resources. We consider how much we consume, and how responsibly we live. This is a good time, when we have had the enormous reset to our lives from the pandemic, where we can consider our footprint on the earth. Are we kind, considerate stewards of God's creation? Do we do all we can to ensure our beautiful world is still here and able to abound in goodness for our children and our children's children? We are already in climate crisis. There are already changes happening to our world, that are incredibly harmful to the people least able to respond. Look at the series of droughts in Madagascar that have had such a devastating effect on its people. It is a climate change-induced famine. How do we respond to news such as this? Do we do our part in our lives, or try to ignore it and walk by on the other side?

Lastly, harvest is a time when we consider our own harvests. What do we produce, what are our own harvests we wish to thank God for? Maybe we grow things in our gardens? But maybe too, we can think of our harvest of skills, experience, prayer, money, resources, time and effort. What might we do with them for God's purposes. How can we offer to God, these things as a sign of our gratefulness to God for God's blessings?

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus told his disciples to seek first the kingdom of God and not to worry about what they should eat, or what they should wear, because God knows that those things are needed. What does it mean to seek first the Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of God is God's reign here on earth. A place, a people living by God's rules. A place where all are equally valued, equally regarded, and where the poor, the weary, the injured and the broken can find peace, rest, healing, compassion and practical support and help. We are members of God's kingdom, as the church. Each of us is a member who can love, support, care for and pray for the other members of the Kingdom. We can also offer financial support, food, listening, caring and a ministry of presence – just being there.

This harvest time, please consider: God has blessed me. How can I pass that blessing on to others?

Intercessions

God of love and joy, we thank you for your gifts of creation. For our world, for our land and our seas and our clean air, for the beauty of nature and its resources. We thank you for all who work to harvest, process and transport our food.

We pray for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth, that we may all use your gifts carefully and responsibly.

We bring to you those who are deprived of the fullness of life. We pray for prisoners, refugees, disabled people, and those without enough to eat or access to adequate medical care. And we hold up to you the sick, and those who care for them that they may be granted the gifts of care and compassion.

We pray for those who work in politics, medical science, social and relief work, and for the church as we seek to bring life to others.

God, Creator, bring us new life. Jesus, Redeemer, renew us. Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us. Amen

(Adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

Thanks to Jenny for these prayers,

Harvest Offering We are not collecting for the foodbank this year as a church, however, please particularly consider making your own donation to the foodbank or another charity you support, and remember those who are struggling at this time.

Please pray for: Jackie's family, Andy Roberson, Ian and Ann Bartholomew, Carol Wetherell, Kay McGloan and Judith

Collect for Pentecost 18

O Lord, may your grace at all times go before us, and follow on behind: and so continually direct us to good works; 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 Michael and All Angels

Everlasting God, who ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; through 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 meeting on Zoom. Anyone is welcome to join us.... perhaps for one week only, or for a few weeks or as a regular attender. Our sessions run from 10.30 every Wednesday morning, and usually finish around 12.15. If you want to know more or if you have any concerns you would like us to pray about, please contact Jenny (07950 830017).

Harvest Our Harvest celebrations will continue this Sunday evening – 6 pm at Holy Trinity. We hope you can join us for our first Evensong since March 2020. The choir is so looking forward to singing music old and new.

Readings for next Sunday 3 Oct Pentecost 19

Genesis 2: 18 – 24

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1: 1 – 4; 2: 5 – 12

Mark 10:2-16

Activities and Future Events
www.trinityelgin.org

Most activities currently suspended due to Covid-19 precautions.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals – please contact 01343 547505.

Tembu's normal days off are Friday and 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/UCSYhBaWnrmXOvc1HgDzIm_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 – Usually available from 9 am each Sunday	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

Philip's Ordination. Next Sat 2 Oct, 2 pm at Inverness Cathedral. We have a 12 seater coach booked (leaving HT at 1230) There is one seat left. Info from Lynne T.

Mothers' Union. 20th. Oct. 2pm in the small hall our first meeting will be taken by our own Revd. Jenny Sclater. These meetings are open to everyone.

"The money bit." Leaving a legacy for the church is a quick and easy process. Legacies can help to secure our long-term financial security. If you would like to have a confidential discussion about a legacy for the church, please speak to Gordon Barron, our Legacy Officer. For help with regular giving and Gift Aid please contact Kate. 813133 or GiftAid@trinityelgin.org

RIP Vicky Jamieson

The Funeral will be on on Tues 28th Sept, 11 O'clock at St Margaret's, Lossiemouth; our thoughts and prayers are with Michael and family.

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