

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 3 Oct 21 Pentecost 19

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 4 Oct Francis of Assisi

Tues 5 Oct

Wed 6 Oct

Thurs 7 Oct

Fri 8 Oct

Alexander Penrose Forbes

Sat 9 Oct

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year B Weekdays Year 1

Week of Proper 27 Daily Prayer: Week D

Collect

O Lord, we beseech you: give your people grace to turn away from evil; and to follow you, the only God, in pureness of heart and mind; 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 2: 18 – 24

The LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Psalm Ps 8

Response *How exalted is your name in all the world.*

O Lord our governor, how exalted is your name in all the world! Out of the mouths of infants and children your majesty is praised above the heavens. You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, to quell the enemy and the avenger. **R**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses, What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them? mere human beings, that you should seek them out? **R**

You have made them little lower than the angels; you adorn them with glory and honour. You give them mastery over the works of your hands; and put all things under their feet, **R**

All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field, The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea. O Lord our governor, how exalted is your name in all the world! **R**

Second Reading Hebrews 1: 1 – 4, 2: 5 – 12

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. Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, subjecting all things under their feet.' Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

GOSPEL Mark 19: 2 – 16

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. Jesus said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another,

she commits adultery.’ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Reflection

If you have ever seen a child receiving a present, you will know what Jesus means about receiving the kingdom of God ‘as a little child’. There is no embarrassment, no ‘you shouldn’t have’, no wondering if you want this, or if it will go with the décor. There is sudden joy and excitement at being given the gift, swift unwrapping, then delight at the gift be it a chocolate bar or a million pounds!

In the gospel reading, the disciples spoke sternly to the parents bringing their children to Jesus, because they did not want them to waste Jesus’ time. Jesus was saying important things. For adults. He didn’t want to be bothered by a bunch of children. Except, it was those exactly that Jesus did want to meet. ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them’ said Jesus. Then he said something wonderful, and upsetting ‘for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs’. Not to the wise, the strong or the powerful, but the little children *and those who received the kingdom like them*. Yes Jesus takes this teaching further, to not only include little children, but also those who are willing to receive the kingdom of God ‘as a little child’.

When people talk about children it can often be somewhat patronising – *they are so wonderfully innocent, such a simple faith*. Yes, but those are exactly the qualities that Jesus appreciates. Children accept what they are told, receive good news with joy and excitement, and do not practice evil (unless they are taught to). Let’s also make a difference between the words child-like and child-ish, because I think they are sometimes confused. Jesus is calling us to be child-like. To receive the kingdom of God as a child would.

Unfortunately, for a lot of us, the closest we come to this is being child-ish! Tantrums, name calling (even under our breaths), ‘he said, she said’, sulking, which of us is not guilty of these from time to time? Jesus came amongst us

offering a free gift from God and telling us the good news of the kingdom. He had a really, really hard time of it. Most did not even receive him. Few believed in him. 'There's no such thing as a free lunch' they said (to paraphrase). Yet, that is exactly what God offers us. Freedom, earth to grow food, love, forgiveness... when has God ever asked us to pay for any of these? We are the ones that put up barriers, we are the ones that make it difficult, we are the ones that put stumbling blocks in peoples ways.

Earlier in the Gospel passage, the Pharisees ask Jesus about divorce. Not, of course, that they want to learn, but to test Jesus. Will he slip up? Can he be caught out? Can we get Jesus into trouble? Jesus' answer is clever because it puts it right back into their camp, 'what did Moses command you'. So they have to come up with the teaching. 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' Then Jesus teaches them *'because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you'*. That is, Moses had this rule because it was better than a man simply using a woman and throwing her away. At least she got a certificate of dismissal that she could show. At a time when women had little access to resources and support away from men, this gave some little protection. But, says Jesus, it was not meant this way. From the beginning, women and men were meant to be together, and to support one another, in love and in equality. The hardness of human hearts, harshness and unkindness dressed up as 'religion' or 'real life' marred that straightforward and loving way. The kingdom of God is for those who return to that way, and receive God's gifts, as a child would.

Intercessions

That this day may be holy, good and joyful: we pray to you, O Lord.

That we may offer to you our worship and our work: we pray to you, O Lord.

That we may strive for the well-being of all creation: we pray to you, O Lord.

That in the pleasures and pains of life, we may know the love of Christ and be thankful: we pray to you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit, in communion with all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ: we pray to you, O Lord.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thanks to Jenny for these prayers.

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

You are holy, Lord, the only God, and Your deeds are wonderful.
You are strong. You are great. You are the Most High.
You are Almighty.
You, Holy Father are King of heaven and earth.
You are Three and One, Lord God, all Good.
You are Good, all Good, supreme Good, Lord God, living and true.
You are love. You are wisdom. You are humility. You are endurance.
You are rest. You are peace. You are joy and gladness.
You are justice and moderation.
You are all our riches, and You suffice for us.
You are beauty. You are gentleness. You are our protector.
You are our guardian and defender.
You are our courage. You are our haven and our hope.
You are our faith, our great consolation.
You are our eternal life, Great and Wonderful Lord,
God Almighty, Merciful Saviour.

St. Francis of Assisi's prayer given to Brother Leo

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).

Readings for next Sunday 10 Oct Pentecost 20

Amos 5: 6 – 7, 10 – 15

Psalm 90: 12 – 17

Hebrews 4: 12 – 16

Mark 10: 17 – 31

Activities and Future Events
www.trinityelgin.org

Many activities are 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/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 – 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

Garden. Next gardening session is THIS TUES 5 OCT. Please contact Lynne T if you need more info.

Mothers' Union. Monthly meetings will restart on Wed 20 Oct at 2pm in the small hall. Revd Jenny will take that first meeting. All are welcome and Lynne T can give you more details.

Money!! Well, our items over the past few weeks have probably told you all you need to know about supporting our churches financially. Don't worry – there's not an exam and we're always happy to answer any questions. For a confidential discussion about legacies please speak to Gordon Barron. For help with regular giving and Gift Aid please contact Kate. 813133 or GiftAid@trinityelgin.org

Harvest. It was so good to sing Evensong again and didn't HT look wonderful? I missed the piles of veg and groceries though, and just hope people are still supporting the Foodbank. If, like me, you haven't got round to it yet then you can donate cash at morayfoodplus.org.uk There are food collection points in some supermarkets, too. Or – you may choose to give a harvest donation to another charity. I feel so lucky to have lots of fresh produce and enough money to buy all the food I need, so please feel free to make sure I have given my harvest “thank offering” by the time you read this.

News from the garden.

I have to admit to a lapse of concentration when Tembu asked us in his harvest sermon at HT what we felt we had plenty of. My mind filled with thoughts of courgettes and runner beans! My neighbours must be getting fed up with my little gifts of veg. It's all coming to an end now, though, and I'm trying to get prepared for the first frosts. We've harvested most stuff and stored it away in bags, boxes and the freezer and of course there's been a bit of hilarity as we discover wonky carrots and Siamese twin courgettes. They all taste fine! The next harvest will no doubt be all those autumn leaves – now where's the rake? (Oh dear, the sermon's gone out of my head, sorry!)

And finally

They say time is the solution to every problem. I've been waiting for five hours already and the room is still messy.

Priest in Charge: The Revd Tembu Rongong
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Items for next Sunday's leaflet should be with Kate by Wednesday evening.
pewleaflet@trinityelgin.org or 01343 835133