

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 31 Jul 22 8th 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

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

Mon 1 Aug Ignatius Loyola
(from 31 Jul)

Tue 2 Aug

Wed 3 Aug

Thurs 4 Aug

Fri 5 Aug Oswald of Northumbria

Sat 6 Aug Transfiguration

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year C Weekdays Year 2

Week of: Proper 18 Daily Prayer: Week A

Collect

Grant to us, Lord, the spirit to think on those things that are right, and always to be ready to do them: that we, who without you cannot be alive, may have the strength to live according to your will; 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 Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12 – 14; 2: 18 – 23

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me – and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labours under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Psalm Ps 49: 1 – 12

Response *My mouth, O Lord, shall speak of wisdom.*

Hear this, all you peoples; hearken, all you who dwell in the world, you of high degree and low, rich and poor together. My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding. R

I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp. Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me, The wickedness of those who put their trust in their goods, and boast of their great riches? R

We can never ransom ourselves, or deliver to God the price of our life; For the ransom of our life is so great, that we should never have enough to pay it, In order to live for ever and ever, and never see the grave. R

For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them. Their graves shall be their homes for ever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they call the lands after their own names. R

Even though honoured, they cannot live for ever; they are like the beasts that perish. Such is the way of those who foolishly trust in themselves, and the end of those who delight in their own words. R

Second Reading Colossians 3: 1 – 11

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things – anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

GOSPEL Luke 12: 13 – 21

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’ But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ And he said to the crowd, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’” But God said to him, “You fool! This

very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

Reflection (*Tembu*)

The readings this week focus on the not-so-tiny issue of the meaning of life. What is life about? Why do we do what we do? What is it all for? The Teacher in the Ecclesiastes reading wonders what the point of it all is? All this labour, all this work... what is it all for? Why do we do it? You work all your life to acquire things that you then have to give up and pass on to those who come after you. And you can't control who they are, and what they do with it... In the gospel a man tries to rope Jesus in to his succession disputes with his brother. He wants this important teacher to decide on his side as to how the family inheritance should be divided. Jesus is having none of it. He is not going to be judge or arbiter over them. Jesus seems to have no interest in material goods, beyond what is needed to keep you going. And he warns his listeners against greed and the love of possessions. Jesus is clear, material possessions are not what life is about. Storing up goods for yourself, making more and more surpluses are not what life is about.

So what is life about? What is it all for? Jesus says it, in the last sentence of the gospel — being rich towards God.

What might that look like? What does it mean to be rich towards God?

Where is your focus? Where is your heart? What do you work towards? What is your centre? When you wake up in the morning, when you go to sleep at night, what are your priorities?

Do you care most about yourself? Or do you care most about God?

Well I care for others, for my family, my friends, I hear you answer... I want to gently suggest that '*my* family' '*my* friends' are still all about you. The focus is still about *your* relationships, *your* priorities. What would a God-centred life be like?

God is simply the most wonderful person in existence. The most extraordinary, the most loving, the most caring, the most compassionate.

And yet, many of us profoundly struggle to spend time with God (then waste time feeling guilty we haven't!). What is that about?

There is something there about trust. Perhaps we feel we cannot give up our autonomy — this is all I have. I *have* to do this task, I don't have time to

pray, does that mean God is an optional extra? Perhaps too we think it is a either/or choice. I choose my family, my friends, my job... they need me. Thus God gets squeezed in between job, leisure, family, travel, chores, and everything else we *have* to do. And we feel bad. We are not being rich towards God, but what can we do?

The wonderful thing is, it is not a choice we have to make. You don't choose to breathe do you? You don't choose to make your heart beat?

Being rich towards God is starting with God, *then doing everything else with God alongside (sometimes God leading, sometimes God protecting, but always there)*. God loves you, your family, your friends, every bit as much as you do and more. God values the things you need. God cares what choices you make, what makes you smile, what makes you laugh. God cares about what makes you angry, what you see is unjust.

God wants you to trust him, and not try and do everything yourself. God wants to be in your life front and centre, day and night, with every breath. God is just waiting for that invitation. From you. To be with you, alongside you, around you, every day of your life.

Intercessions (Jenny)

To him who alone is God, let us make our requests with thanksgiving.

I ask your prayers for peace in all areas of conflict: for peace between warring nations, peace within and amongst nations and smaller communities, peace within families, and peace within ourselves; for peacemakers and peacekeepers everywhere.

I ask your prayers for all who wield authority and influence: for leaders, that they may be granted wisdom, courage, vision and inspiration, and that they may work together for the common good.

I ask your prayers for all who suffer injury or sickness, and those who live with chronic pain: all those in distress, those we know and those who have no one to pray for them.

I ask your prayers for all whom we have wronged: asking for your forgiveness for our greed, selfishness and lack of care for other people and for your beautiful creation.

I ask your prayers for our Bishop and Primus Mark and for all the scattered

congregations and clergy in this diocese, and in the whole province of the Scottish Episcopal Church: and let us pray for God's blessing on all the Anglican bishops who attended the Lambeth Conference this last week, as they each return now to their own dioceses world wide.

Give thanks to God for the lives of all those who have died, and pray that they may rest in peace and rise in glory.

Merciful Father, accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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.

Summer Benediction

When young-leafed June is summoned by the sun,
And new-mown grass breathes fragrance through the air,
When work is over, holidays begun,
May peace and pleasure in themselves be prayer.
And in your leisure may you hear the one
Who is your blessing and by whom you're blest
Still calling you: Come unto me and rest.

Malcolm Guite

Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 31 July, 3 pm
Burghead Church of Scotland Hall on Grant Street

Readings for next Sunday 7 Aug 22 Pentecost 9

Genesis 15:1 – 6

Psalm 33:12–22

Hebrews 11: 1 – 3, 8 – 16

Luke 12: 32 – 40

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, 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 THIS TUE, 2 AUG. All welcome.

Yeek! Out of the Ordinary 7 – 13 August.

The church's year is the theme for the 2022 Youth week (Yeek). They'll be investigating our festivals and thinking about how "ordinary time" offers more than just green vestments. Please hold the delegates and leaders in your prayers as they prepare for the in–person event at Glenalmond. The trailer is worth a watch! <https://youtu.be/0eh6D6JcMh8>

Holy Trinity Memorial Book I am planning a long overdue update of the memorial book at the back of the church. If you would like any names (and dates) to be added, please let me know. Thank you. Jenny. 07950 830017

Scottish Folk Music and German Volkslied Multi–instrumentalist Christian Lontzek will be joined by the Aberlour reelers. St Margaret's Aberlour, 7 pm on Sat 13 Aug. Admission £10 at the door includes light refreshments. Children free.

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 been paid! The treasurer let me know that HMRC have paid us over £2,300 already. My spreadsheet wrangling has paid off, but thanks are due to those who give and have done one tiny piece of paperwork – filled in a Gift Aid declaration. You're eligible if you pay basic rate tax and it costs you nothing more than you are already giving. Please speak to Kate. 835133 or GiftAid@trinityelgin.org For legacies it's Gordon Barron. 547188

News from the Sunflowers. Remember all those sunflowers I sold in aid of the Ukraine humanitarian appeal? I've had mixed results from mine. There's a beautiful one on its own in a pot on the patio which has been in flower for ages. But, unsurprisingly, the ones that are sharing pots and have been exposed to the wind are not so enthusiastic. Tall, yes, but the flowers are small and not out yet. Meanwhile the three that were planted in the middle of the freshly composted courgette patch have trunks (I can't say stems) that are thicker than a broom handle and about 2 metres tall. Just one flower is out so far and it's so high that only the birds will have a good view. Meanwhile my neighbour has a lovely collection of beautiful sunflowers, tall, but not too tall. I think that new gardener definitely has green fingers! I'd love to know how anyone else has got on with theirs.

And finally

LOVE = Lots of voluntary effort

Sent in by Lynne Taylor

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 or 01343 835133