

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 7 Aug 22 9th 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 8 Aug Dominic

Tue 9 Aug John Mason Neale

Wed 10 Aug Lawrence

Thurs 11 Aug Clare of Assisi

Fri 12 Aug Blane

Sat 13 Aug Jeremy Taylor

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year C Weekdays Year 2

Week of: Proper 19 Daily Prayer: Week B

Collect

Open your merciful ears, O Lord, to the prayers of your humble servants: and, that you would graciously grant what we ask, make us desire what is pleasing in your sight; 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 15: 1 – 6

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ But Abram said, ‘O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ But the word of the LORD came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ The Lord brought Abraham outside and said, ‘Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Psalms Ps 33: 12 – 22

Response *Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own!*

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! happy the people he has chosen to be his own! The Lord looks down from heaven, and beholds all the people in the world. From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze on all who dwell on the earth. **R**

He fashions all the hearts of them and understands all their works. There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; the strong are not delivered by great strength. The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; for all its strength it cannot save. **R**

Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him, on those who wait upon his love, To pluck their lives from death, and to feed them in time of famine. **R**

Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, for in his holy name we put our trust. Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, as we have put our trust in you. **R**

Second Reading

Hebrews 11: 1 – 3, 8 – 16

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old – and Sarah herself was barren – because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

GOSPEL

Luke 12: 13 – 40

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming,

he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

Reflection (*Philip*)

Two of our readings contain the phrase, "Do not be afraid". There is a myth that this phrase or versions of it appear 365 times in Scripture, one for each day of the year. This is not true, but the phrase does appear 67 Bible times in the New Revised Standard Version (Biblegateway.com search), so it is an important message from God. The Bible does tell us – lots of times – not to be afraid. The message is not in doubt. God tells us to fear nothing and no one except for Him. We are not to live in fear. What is it that you fear? Heights? Small spaces? The dark? The unknown? It is part of our human nature to have anxiety about things that we cannot or do not control. The media plays on this to create stories and to sell news. It is being reported that energy bills are rising, that it is unaffordable to live and there is murder on the streets.

The Gospel reading follows on from Jesus' teaching that God will provide for his disciples' needs so they neither need to strive to meet these needs, nor be anxious about God's provision and certainly not store up an abundance of wealth (Luke 12:13–30). Verse 32 continues this theme but quickly flows into the theme of readiness for the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus assures us that it is our Father's "good pleasure" to give us the kingdom. So confident can we be in this generous Father that we should "Sell your possessions and give alms." Too many people are forced to live in this state of poverty, not knowing how they are going to make ends meet each month or support themselves or their family. Verse 34 makes a point already made in a different form earlier in the chapter in the parable of the rich fool (v16–20): for our hearts to be in the right place we need to have our 'treasure' in the right place.

This passage can also be used to get a sense of 'apocalyptic' urgency present in the Synoptic Gospels. Generations of Christians have come to hear the urgency of making a decision for Christ before it is too late or you will find yourself banished to eternal hell. But recent New Testament scholars are reading this passage slightly differently: follow the way of peace of Jesus, or another hellish experience of human violence is around the corner. Seek His kingdom here on earth as it is in Heaven. The Son of Man came

unexpectedly into our human violence, like a thief in the night, to give us a very different way to peace. It becomes increasingly urgent to choose that peace.

We and those outside the faith, seek Hope. There are the practical hopes, like lower energy bills, food on the table, and to see our loved ones again. The voice of Jesus rings true to us again, as always, "Do not be afraid". "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." It is not mere wishful thinking, nor is it imagining things which do not exist. It is the confident conviction that what is not seen (God) and what is not yet experienced (the fulfilment of God's promises) is true and real. God exists and His kingdom is the future. Examples of Abraham and the other Prophets give us hope. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, in his book "Tokens of Trust" asks the question, "why should we put our confidence in God the Father almighty?". He takes a chapter to lay out his answers, but he explains that one of the clearest answers is found in the letter to the Ephesians, "with all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth." (Eph 1:8-10). Therefore we have no need to be afraid.

Intercessions *(Panny)*

As children of the living God, we come to Him, and we open our hearts to Him.

...

Father God, you know our limits; you know our needs;

We ask you to bless our ministry in Holy Trinity and St. Margaret's, and across this diocese. Strengthen and encourage all church leaders and deepen our faith and hope in you.

...

Father God, heal all the nations – our own and those across the world – of all that has caused pain and distrust. Help us to build on your foundation, so that we treat others as we would have them treat us.

We call to mind all whose capacity to trust has been shattered; be with victims of injustice or corruption, that they can learn to trust again.

...

Father God, be with us in our daily living – in our homes and in all our relationships. We give thanks for our families and friendships, and we call to mind relationships where trust has broken down. We ask that you walk beside those who grieve for what could have been....

...

Father God, sit with those who are on life–support, their families and friends, and all who provide care for them. Nurture their faith that they may experience your kingdom here on earth.

...

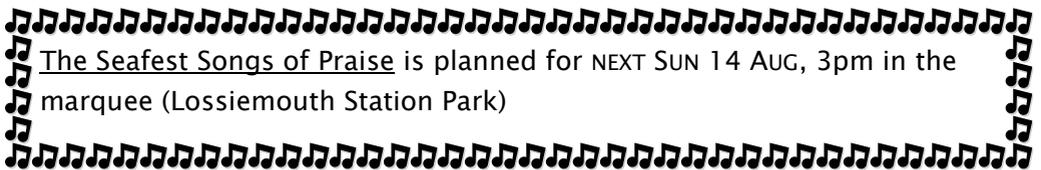
Father God, we give thanks for those who have gone before, and who now see you face to face. May they know the peace of eternity, and we look forward to sharing in that life of joy.

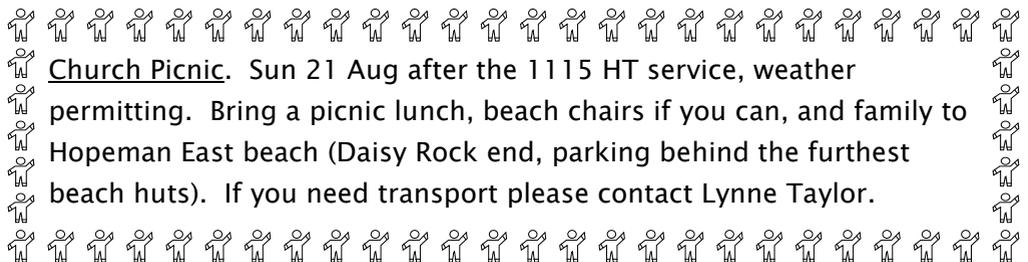
Lord our God, we believe and trust in you; thank you for the glorious hope you have set before us.

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.

The Seafest Songs of Praise is planned for NEXT SUN 14 AUG, 3pm in the marquee (Lossiemouth Station Park)

 Church Picnic. Sun 21 Aug after the 1115 HT service, weather permitting. Bring a picnic lunch, beach chairs if you can, and family to Hopeman East beach (Daisy Rock end, parking behind the furthest beach huts). If you need transport please contact Lynne Taylor.

Readings for next Sunday 14 Aug 22 Pentecost 10

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 SOON.

Yeek! Out of the Ordinary 7 – 13 August. THIS WEEK!

The church's year is the theme for the 2022 Youth week (Yeek). They are investigating our festivals and thinking about how "ordinary time" offers more than just green vestments. They're bound to enjoy being back together "in person" so please remember everyone involved in your prayers.

Open Garden 2.30 – 5 PM THIS SUNDAY at Orton house, in memory of Peter Millar who died of a rare neurological illness in Nov 19. Entry £5 (Children free) in aid of research at the National Hospital for Neurology, and Scotland's Garden scheme. 3 miles east of Elgin on A96 turn right onto B9103, signposted Rothes and Cranloch, for about 4 miles. After railway arch, turn right onto B9015 then look for signs for Garden (not estate). (3rd left turn)

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



Philip's Ordination to the priesthood has been announced!

Please see diary . . .

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 7 Aug TODAY 2.30 – 5PM Open garden at Orton in memory of Peter Millar

Sun 14 Aug Seafest Songs of Praise 3pm at Lossiemouth Station Car Park

Tue 16 Aug Gardening at HT

Sun 21 Aug Church Picnic, Hopeman east beach, after 1115 service

Tue 6 Sep Gardening at HT

Sat 24 Sep Philip's Ordination, 2pm at HT Elgin. Refreshments in hall after.

Sun 2 Oct St M Harvest

Wed 5 Oct St M Chippy and fundraiser

Regular giving. It's important! You know what to do... ..

Kate. 835133 or GiftAid@trinityelgin.org

For legacies it's Gordon Barron. 547188

Summer news. The weather is totally unsuitable for staying indoors. Just as well, because there are peas and beans to harvest. (If I were Prime Minister it would be law that every child gets to snaffle a sun warmed pea pod straight from the plant before the age of 10.) I'm also on holiday watering duty for my neighbour, so seem to spend half my time with a watering can dangling from my arm. We've lifted new tatties and lots of onions, and we've been pulling the smaller carrots for weeks now. They're yummy and the rest will grow on to be big enough to store. I'm going to have to spend *some* time in the house though. Not only can I not write this news outdoors, but friends are coming to stay and I'll need to do some serious blitzing in the spare room. So – if we have a rainy day I'll be doubly pleased. No watering and no "pull" from the garden. However . . . Rain doesn't matter when I swim . . .!!!

And finally

Speak softly and wear a loud shirt

(In the case of your editor – it's loud trousers!!)

"Hawaiian rules"

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