

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 9 Jan 22 Epiphany

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

Mon 10 Jan William Laud

Tue 11 Jan David, King of Scots

Wed 12 Jan

Thurs 13 Jan KENTIGERN (OR MUNGO)

Fri 14 Jan Hilary of Poitiers

Sat 15 Jan

Scottish Episcopal Church Calendar and Lectionary.

Sunday Year C Weekdays Year 2

Week of Proper 1 Daily Prayer: Week A

Collect

O God, who, by the guidance of a star, revealed your only-begotten Son to the nations: Grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at the last be led to see your glory face to face; 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 1 Isaiah 60: 1 – 6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Psalm Ps 72: 1 – 7, 10 – 14

Response *Kings bow down before him; all the nations do him service.*

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son; That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness. **R**

He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. **R**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts. All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper. He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy. He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight. **R**

Second Reading Ephesians 3: 1 – 12

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

GOSPEL Matthew 2: 1 – 12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the

prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reflection *(Jenny)*

Long before computers, even before telescopes, people studied and named the stars and charted their long journeys through the heavens.

Some of the earliest books of the Bible mention stars. Job names three constellations, the Bear, Pleiades and Orion. Childless Abraham goes outside his tent on his own at night and hears a promise from God that he will have as many descendants as the stars in the night sky. In the Book of Job we hear that stars sometimes “sing together” and “shout for joy”. Psalm 47 tells us that God has a name for each of the stars and determines their number. So we know that stars held fascination and meaning for the ancient people of God.

In our Gospel reading we see wise men coming from the east, following a star. It is not clear to us how they knew that this rising star announced the birth of “the king of the Jews”. And it seems strange to us is how everyone in the story, especially Herod, just accepts the wise men’s account of the star and the birth of the king. In fact, King Herod takes their astronomical report so seriously that he drops everything, and makes it his priority to search for and eliminate the baby king that they were talking about.

There are so many unanswered questions about the story that we have heard today, the story which has become such a treasured part of our Christmas

tradition, depicted in carols and cards, crib scenes and nativity plays. And in our own church this Sunday morning.

What we do know is that ***God wanted the Magi to be there.*** That is the point of Epiphany. God wanted them to be among the first to see his Son in human flesh. He wanted them to be there because they represented all Gentiles. He wanted rich and poor, high and low, Jews and Gentiles there worshipping his Son who had come to be King not only of the Jews but of all people.

And that includes us: ***he wants us there.*** That's why he has brought you to read these words now.

St Paul says that he himself was one of those unlikely people that God used to bring others to Jesus..... Paul who had hated Christians, Paul who had stood by and watched and applauded while the hostile crowds stoned Stephen to death, Paul who had been on a mission to capture and kill Christians..... God used even ***him*** to bring people to Jesus. Just as God had brought the Magi to Jesus, God brought Paul to know Jesus and God used him to bring others to him.

God wants all humankind to come to know his Son, and he shows that wonderfully and mysteriously at the Epiphany. Let us rejoice that the Magi didn't simply stop and gaze at the star, but rather they let that star lead them to something beyond itself. Something for them and us to ponder about and to wonder at. An Epiphany.

Intercessions (Kate)

Let us worship the Saviour with joy, and make our prayer to God in heaven.

The magi came from the east to worship your Son: God grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration. May we see you in the nature which surrounds us. Help us to be good stewards of our natural world.

Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh: God accept the offering of our hearts and minds as, at the beginning of this year, we resolve

to be diligent in our service to you and alert for new ways to share your love.

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ: God grant an abundance of peace to your world. May we never take peace for granted. We pray for the leaders of nations. We pray for all who are caught up in present day conflicts around the world.

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death: God look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless, and all who suffer. We pray for people who have been forced to flee their homes because of war, natural disaster or lack of a livelihood.

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth: God protect in your love our neighbours, our families and this community of which we are a part. We pray for all the families represented in our congregations. We remember those of our loved ones who are ill, anxious or bereaved. We ask that our church family may be a source of love, compassion and practical help.

We rejoice in our fellowship with the shepherds, the angels, the magi, the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and all the faithful departed. In your unfailing love for us and for all people, hear and answer our prayers through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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

Collect for the weekdays of Proper 1

O Lord, in your loving kindness, hear the prayers of your people as they call upon you: that they may discern your will, and also be given strength to fulfil it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Readings for next Sunday Epiphany 2 16 Jan 22

Isaiah 62: 1 – 5

Psalms 36: 5 – 10

1 Corinthians 12: 1 – 11

John 2: 1 – 11

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)

Youth Fellowship

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

Calling all gardeners. We are meeting on Tues 18 Jan at 10am to have a tidy up of the front garden after the winter debris. Any queries speak to Lynne T.

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

Mothers' Union. The next meeting is on Wed 19 Jan at 2pm in Holy Trinity church. Tembu will be coming to talk to us. Meeting are open to everyone.

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.

Diary.

Tue 18 Jan HT Front garden tidy up. 10 am

Wed 19 Jan MU 2 pm in HT

Sun 30 Jan Choral Evensong for Candlemas 1800 at HT

Wed 2 Mar Ash Wednesday

Sun 6 Mar Evensong for Lent 1800 HT

New Year Resolution? If you've decided to start, increase or change your regular giving in any way, please contact Kate. 835133 or GiftAid@trinityelgin.org For legacies please speak to Gordon Barron.

News from the veg plot. Roots season is here! We have parsnips and neeps (swede, turnip, whatever you call them) still in the ground. They cope with any frosts but we do have to make sure we get out and dig up a few when the ground is soft. In the garage is stuff that won't stand a frost. There are carrots in boxes of sand, Jerusalem artichokes in old compost and tatties in paper sacks. We also have onions hanging in the garage. "Not a root veg" I hear you say? Well, yes, but just about every recipe I have starts with an onion. We've had neck of lamb stew (with root veg) and turkey broth (with root veg). Any time the oven is on we have roast roots. Roast Jerusalem artichokes are really good – oozing soft, sweet puree from their skins. I have butter beans I dried in the summer, and "cheesy, beany, rooty barley" is guaranteed to fill up anyone. January and February always seem a bit dreary so rooty comfort food from our plot is a good way to cheer up. What are your favourite strategies for coping with dark, driech days?

And finally

If every Scot used one single-use face covering every day for a month it would create 875 tonnes of plastic waste – the same weight as Glasgow's Titan Crane!

Zero Waste Scotland

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