



# St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



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**9<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
Pentecost 10**

**D**ear Friends, as we journey on through our church year, we give thanks that we can meet for worship in our two churches, though we are rather restricted with numbers. I hope that the readings, prayers and short reflection for this Sunday have something to say to you in your lives at this time, they certainly speak to me!

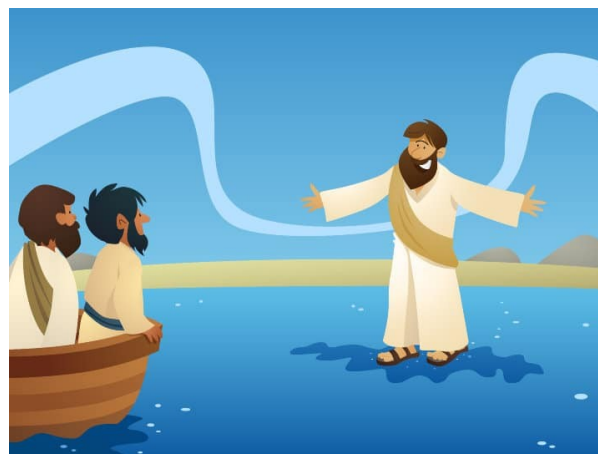
**Readings:** 1 Kings 19: 9 - 18; Romans 10: 5 - 15; Matthew 14: 22- 33

### Collect

**O**pen 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.

### Reflection:

In our Old Testament and Gospel readings we sense that Elijah and Peter are sinking, and both are given a firm handed rescue by a loving God. Elijah is exhausted and worn down - vulnerable to those nagging doubts that whisper the futility, hopelessness and unfairness of it all, probably a place we all recognise and a place that God responds to. And God offers Elijah a way forward to view his situation differently, or at least less overpowering. But first God provides Elijah with the basic needs of rest and food and then the spiritual nurturing. In contrast to the turbulence in Elijah's mind and heart God is noticeable by his absence in the violence of the wind, earthquake and



fire; and God's presence gradually becomes apparent in the peace and the tranquillity. Isn't that what God does with us, calms our racing hearts, stills our fears and takes us forward at a pace we can cope with, offering us a path of hope? In the stilling of the storm Peter too is suddenly overwhelmed by the sense of his own vulnerability when he realises that his is out on his own in the middle of a huge expanse of dark and angry water. And all because he answered Jesus' call to 'come' to him on the water. Maybe we too can find this our experience? Those times when we, like Peter, respond with joy and enthusiasm to Jesus' call to come and to trust, suddenly find ourselves in completely different waters! Times when we too feel we are sinking, times when we become very aware of our vulnerability. And life itself can throw us a curve ball can't it? These past few months' uncertainty, fear and anxiousness have thrown all of us I expect. There will have been times when each one of us will have called out to Jesus from the depth of our hearts to come to our rescue and been so relieved to find him ready to grasp us firmly and bring us to a place where we can feel safe again. Jesus tells us to put our total trust in him, to remember that he is always close by and when we feel frightened and insecure he will not set us sink. Rather he will

help us walk straight over our fears confident in his love and his power. All we have to do is keep ourselves focussed on him and his love. What rich comfort for us in challenging times.

### Prayers

Lord God, we give thanks that you are faithful to us through all the storms of life.

We pray for our world in the midst of this global storm of covid-19. For nations and leaders who have the challenges of making and implementing decisions that affect the health, lives and livelihood of us all. At this time for the people of the Lebanon facing unimaginable challenges following the horrific explosion at the port in Beirut. Bless your church around the world proclaiming the gospel of love, forgiveness and hope. We pray for our church leaders, especially Mark our Primus and John our Bishop. For the churches in our communities and for our two church families and the communities we serve. For our young people who have received exam results this past week and for those returning to school next week.

We ask your blessing upon our families, friends and neighbours and we hold up to you those connected with our church families who have asked for our prayers: from St Columba's: Kath Stutt, Iain Swanney, Cllr Harry Cartmill, Rev Duncan and Marjorie Shaw, Doug and Pat Laurie, Young Harry, Paul Moffat, Anthea and Katie McAlpin. And from St Peter's: Peter McOwen, Annie Gibbs (Olivia Moss's future mother in law), Anna Pink, Joe Lavery, Ronnie Adams, Chris Belton and Bob Philips (Jude and Andy's parents) Dot Pringle, Brenda Cook, Elma Webster, Harry and Connie Payne, Father John, Ruthie Cadell, David Szkudlarek, and Jan Robson. And for all their families.

For all who have died in recent days and those who mourn. And we remember those connected with our church families whose anniversary of death falls this week: from St Columba's: Robert Baird, William Hadland, James Watt and Jean Forrest. And from St Peter's: Joyce Hughes, Eliza Allen, Jessie Green and George Williamson.

### **Blessing**

**T**he peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Dear Friends,

It is a rather strange end to the 'summer holidays' isn't it with our children heading back to school after almost 5 months not the usual 7 or 8 weeks. We will be thinking of

them and all school staff as they adapt to new ways of being school. And well done to our youngsters who received their school results this week. So on we go day by day in this 'new normal' adapting to a different way of worshipping - a blend of face to face and virtual.

These are uncertain and challenging times and I came across this little saying the other day that speaks into these times I think:

*Where there is love there is courage. Where there is courage there is peace. Where there is peace there is God. And when you have God, you have everything.*

So whether you are able to come to church for worship, or join us via Zoom or in spirit we 'meet' in love and connected through the Holy Spirit.

*A reminder of our service times:*

- **Sunday morning St Peter's** short said Eucharist @9.30am
- **St Columba's** short said Eucharist @ 11.15am
- Joint Zoom Eucharist @ 2pm
- **Tuesday morning St Peter's** will be open from 10 - 12 noon
- Short said Eucharist 10.30 - 11am
- Private Prayer 11 - 12 noon
- **Wednesday morning St Columba's** will be open from 10 - 12 noon
- Short said Eucharist 10.30 - 11am
- The Prayer Room linked in via Zoom 11.30 - 12 noon

*A reminder of St Columba's opening arrangements*

The church will be maintaining a 2m separation between people (unless they are buddies). As such face coverings are not mandatory

You will be required to:

- Hand Sanitise on arrival in the vestibule area
- Give name and contact phone number on entry to the church. (The sidesperson will record it on the computer)
- Follow the sides person's instruction as to where to sit.
- At the end of the service remain seated until

instructed to leave via the meeting room.

- Sanitise hand on way out (sanitiser opposite toilet doors by fire alarm).
- Toilets will remain closed but if required the sides person must be notified in order that they can be sanitised after use.

Vestry is remaining vigilant to the ever changing guidelines with respect to face coverings and we will ensure that we comply with government and church requirements whichever is the more stringent so we may have to adjust our control measures accordingly.

*A reminder of St Peter's opening arrangements*

The following simple rules should be followed which will give all who enter the church the confidence that everything is in place to ensure their safety and well-being.

As we all know we are a small church and have space only for 10 to allow for the necessary 2-meter distancing. To ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to come to worship at least one a month an "opt in or out" option will be offered to the congregation. This will then let us work on a schedule which will be fair to everyone. **Jane Ramsay is the contact person (843176). PLEASE LET HER KNOW BY THURSDAY OF EACH WEEK.**

- A sides person will ensure that all hands are sanitized at the front door before entering the building. Please wait until invited into the church.
- Masks must be worn and taken home for disposal.
- Entering and leaving the building will be by the red doors only.
- You will be led back out of church by our sides person, this will be done from back to front of the church. Please wait to be invited to leave.
- Hands should be sanitized when leaving church.
- Our church has been deep cleaned and undergone a "fogging" process. The fogging will continue to be done every 30 days to ensure the building is as clean and germ free as is possible.
- Toilets and *accessibility arrangements: Level access via the side door is available for those with mobility issues. A wheelchair accessible toilet is available if required and will be sanitised after use.*

Working together as we have done in the past and will continue to do now as we slowly begin to re-enter a new way of coming to church, we will keep each other and those in our community safe and well until the day comes when we gather together once more in St Peter's as one large and very happy church family.

***NB If you have any symptoms (temperature, cough, loss of taste or smell) you should not attend church and you should book a test***

And a reminder for St Peter's, that in order to avoid unexpected contacts, for the foreseeable future Jane Ramsay will be keeping a record of requests to enter the church. Please check with her beforehand to ensure that our little church will be empty and virus free before going in. Jane's number is 843176

**Pastoral visits** – under phase 3 of the easing of lockdown came the possibility of my making pastoral visits again. If you would like me to visit you please do contact me. Ideally it would be best to meet in your garden or at a coffee shop perhaps but under certain circumstances, and if you were willing, I would come to visit you at home.

Thank you everyone and please do keep well, keep safe.

*Rev Christine*

**SEC Morning, Evening and Night Prayer Liturgies**

Morning, Evening and Night Prayer daily liturgies are available at:  
[www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices)

Rev Christine and Rev Peter will be saying Morning Prayer @ 9am and Evening Prayer @ 6pm each day in their own homes and invite you to join in from yours. On Thursday mornings we will be sharing a virtual service via Zoom. If you would like to join in, the link every week (until September 13) will be <https://zoom.us/j/756114372>  
Any queries please contact Rev Peter [pw@woodifield.com](mailto:pw@woodifield.com)

For the coming week beginning Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August we enter into the week of Pentecost 10.

\*If you have a paper version of the big blue Prayer Book, for

**Morning Prayer** we will be using the form: Week C on p. 35. Follow the psalm set for the day in Set 2. Follow the Benedictus antiphon set for the day.

**Evening Prayer** we will be using the form: Week C on p. 70

\*If you want to do it online by far the easiest way to do it is to click

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices/> which is updated three times a day for Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline

\*If you just want to do the readings and collect for each day they are as follows. (The online version of Morning Prayer uses the first two readings and Evening Prayer the third, the Gospel.)

Sunday:	Job 39: 1 - 40: 4;	Hebrews 12: 1 - 17;	Luke 12: 32 - 40
Monday:	Judges 12: 1 - 7;	Acts 5: 12 - 26;	John 3: 1 - 21
Tuesday:	Judges 13: 1 - 15;	Acts 5: 27 - 42;	John 3: 22 - 36
Wednesday:	Judges 13: 15 - 24;	Acts 6: 1 - 15;	John 4: 1 - 26
Thursday:	Judges 14: 1 - 19;	Acts 6: 15 - 7: 16;	John 4: 27 - 42
Friday:	Judges 14: 20 - 15: 20;	Acts 7: 17 - 29;	John 4: 43 - 54
Saturday:	Judges 16: 1 - 14;	Acts 7: 30 - 43;	John 5: 1 - 18

The Collect applies to both Morning and Evening Prayer each day.

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.

Each day we pray for:

- The world: people, governments and leaders of the countries and specific issues arising in the news. Issues relating to social justice, peace, suffering and creation. And of course at this time for the devastating global covid-19 crisis.
- Our wider church, the SEC, our diocese, individual churches.
- Our community - residents in our area. For those with no faith, we pray for their introduction to the Christian faith, and for those with faith, that their faith may develop further.
- Those known to us who are unwell or in need.
- Our own church communities.



**Clergy contact numbers:**

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**Rector's Wardens contact numbers:**

David Graham Service – 07901947345

Jane Ramsay - 07982252666