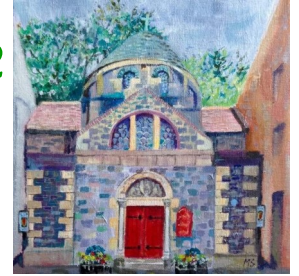




# St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



**Rector: Rev Christine Barclay**

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13<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Pentecost 15

**D**ear friends, as this very surreal year journeys ever onward so does our church calendar. I hope that this Sunday's readings, prayers and short reflection make a connection with your lives.

## Readings

Genesis 50: 15 - 21  
Romans 14: 1 - 12  
Matthew 18: 21 - 35

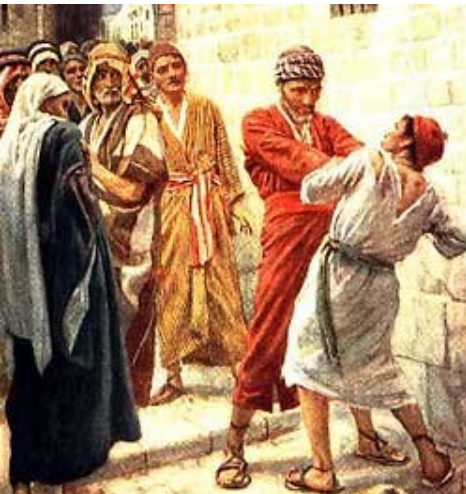
## Collect

**G**uard your Church, O Lord, with your perpetual mercy: and since without your aid we lose our way, draw us always, by your help, away from harm, and steer us towards salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

## Reflection

**I**n our Gospel reading this morning we have what has been described as one of the tenderest passages in the Old Testament. We feel Joseph's affection for his brothers who even now are too scared to be honest. We sense his wise, gentle discerning of the real fears under their naïve scheming, and can learn so much from the way he reacts to these genuine fears rather than to the behaviour they present. Out of such wise loving pours forgiveness. There is no question of it being refused, and through the whole experience Joseph can help them to

see God's redeeming and transforming. In the section of Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul is dealing with a question the churches were finding difficult. Judgement was creeping in as Christians vied with one another in the holiness stakes, assuming



that their way was the only right way of going on. Paul suggests that in matters which are not central to faith there are bound to be differences and that last thing we should be doing is condemning what another finds helpful. He points out that God is the one to whom we are all answerable in the end, and since Jesus is Lord of both life and death, there is nowhere that he isn't, or that his mercy isn't, so we should stop bothering about what is really not our concern!

And what of our Gospel? Peter, who always asks the questions that we would like to ask is, once again, spokesperson, voicing the thoughts of the disciples about forgiveness, and a large dose of self-righteousness seems to be colouring their thinking. Peter would have considered himself generous to be suggesting that forgiveness stretches to the seventh offence, but, as ever, Jesus shocks him, and us, with a glimpse of God's ideas about such matters. Suddenly we are drawn into a whole new dimension, placed in the position of the one on the receiving end of mercy, rather than thinking of ourselves as the noble one dispensing it. And once again Jesus uses a story to make his point. The story begins by making us identify with the servant who owes million and has the whole debt cancelled. And Peter, who had fallen to his knees when he first met Jesus and said, 'Go away from me, Lord, I am a sinful man' would realise immediately that he was like the servant in the story, owing so much and yet totally forgiven. Can we imagine Jesus looking into our eyes as this part of the story is told and we are similarly shown what God has forgiven us for?

From this place, the concept of forgiveness is very different. How can we even consider treating others without forgiveness in view of what God has done for us? Surely it isn't a question of totting up scores, rather a natural response to loving. Research shows that forgiveness is good for us; people who forgive have lower levels of anger, anxiety and depression, are more agreeable and this all contributes to our wellbeing, though I am not sure that this was Jesus' point in this passage!

## Prayers

**L**oving and generous God, you give us life and all we have. Help us to be as generous and forgiving as

you are with us. May we appreciate all the many blessings you shower upon us and for the ways you have, and continue, to guide our lives.

We pray for our world where there is so much division and injustice, bless all who seek to bring peace and unity to the whole human family.

We pray for your church around the world living out the gospel message of love forgiveness, justice and hope. We pray for all church leaders, especially Mark our Primus and John our Bishop. For the churches in the communities where we live and serve and for our church families of St Columba's and St Peter's. We keep our curate Peter in our prayers in the coming days as he prepares for his ordination to the priesthood and for Markie his wife and their family.

We rejoice in your love and the love of 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: Margaret Elder, Geoffrey Gerrard, 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 Elma Webster. And from St Peter's: Rita Manion (David's parents), Annie Gibbs (Olivia Moss's future mother in law), Anna Pink, Joe Lavery, Ronnie Adams, Chris Belton and Bob Philip (Jude and Andy's parents) Dot Pringle, Brenda Cook, Harry and Connie Payne, Father John, Ruthie Cadell, David Szkudlarek, and Jan Robson. And for all their families.

We pray for all who have died in recent days, including Neil Manion (David's father) and for all who mourn. And we remember those connected with our church families whose anniversary of death falls this week: from St Columba's: Robert Muir, Violet Walker, George Brownlee, Jean Pope and Joseph Foster. And from St Peter's: Bertha (Bunny) Bird, Herbert Pain, Jack Rothwell, Helen Jamieson, Irene Jeffrey, David Hardie, Brian Meeney and Marjory Ruth Walls.

### Blessing

The 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, as the autumn colours warm our hearts we remember that this is the time of year when colleges and university terms begin, albeit very different this year. From St Peter's Andrew is heading back to Aberdeen and Jamie is back to Stirling while Robbie heads to Glasgow to begin studying medicine and Yasmine embarks on her art course at West Lothian College. We wish them all well as they begin this new chapter in their lives and in the lives of their families too. And some lovely news to share of another St Peter's youngster - Rosie Pink has been chosen to be the Inclusion Ambassador for West Lothian.

Congratulations Rosie.

Our church life continues with our regular services in church with the Sunday morning service from St Peter's @ 9.30 being Zoomed live. Those who are joining us from home are asked to ensure that your speaker volume is turned up to maximum and there is a separate attachment in the notices of a Eucharist prayer that you may like to say as you receive Communion spiritually.

Rev Peter's ordination to the priesthood is taking place on Tuesday September 22 at 5.30pm in St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. Because space is very limited, it looks as though there will be roughly 10 spaces for St Peter's and 10 for St Columba's. If you would like to attend, would those from St Peter's please let Catherine Fowler know by email at [ctfowler15@gmail.com](mailto:ctfowler15@gmail.com). For those at St Columba's please let Jim Adamson know at [jim.adamson@live.com.au](mailto:jim.adamson@live.com.au). The two vestries have agreed that the names will be drawn by ballot. It is hoped that the service will be live-streamed for those unable to attend.

This coming Tuesday (15<sup>th</sup>) Bishop John is leading as Service of Renewal in St Mary's Cathedral for clergy of our diocese. Rev Peter and I have signed up to go and as it begins late morning Ian Wallace has kindly agreed to lead St Peter's worship on with Reserved Sacrament - bread only which I will consecrate on Sunday morning.

### Services for the coming week:

**Sunday** morning St Peter's short said Eucharist @9.30am - **Zoomed live**

St Columba's short said Eucharist @ 11.15am

**Tuesday** morning St Peter's will be open from 10 - 12 noon

Short said Eucharist 10.30 - 11am. This will be a Reserved Sacrament Service this week led by Ian Wallace

Private Prayer 11 - 12 noon

**Wednesday** morning St Columba's will be open from 10 - 12 noon

Short said Eucharist 10.30 - 11am

Private Prayer 11 - 12 noon

Prayer Room 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).

### You will be required to:

- Masks must be worn and taken home for disposal
- Hand Sanitise on arrival in the vestibule area
- Give name and contact phone number on entry to the church. (The sides person 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).

The accessible toilet will be open but please follow the one-way system and follow the instructions for sanitising before and after use.

*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.

Tuesday morning and Sunday morning services are now well attended. If you would like to have a place at either of the services, please contact Jane Ramsay who will ensure that the places are fairly distributed each week.

**Tel 843176 or email her [jane.ramsay48@gmail.com](mailto:jane.ramsay48@gmail.com). 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. We will continue to "fog" on a quarterly basis as recommended by the cleaning firm who will be professionally cleaning the church on a monthly basis for the foreseeable future.

· 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

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*

## NOTICES

Zoom Coffee and chat 28th September 11.15 ID 5111791282 password 3i1TYq - then fortnightly thereafter.

### **Wednesday morning Prayer Room @ 11.130**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78369032703?pwd=b0U4Y3EzOUJBTvHxRi9WR3ZPVmJldz09>

Meeting ID: 783 6903 2703

Passcode: Prayer

### **Parish Magazine**

The deadline date for articles for the church magazine is Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> September for an early October publication.

### **Choir with a Mission!**

Vox Coelestis, conducted by the internationally-renowned Nigel Short, has launched a video to introduce

themselves to future audiences as they re-plan their 'Cathedral Series' of performances around Scotland in support of MtSS.

Click on the link to go to the MtSS website to see the video - and maybe donate!

<http://www.mtss.scot/vox-coelestis-mtss-music-video/>

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> September we enter into the week of Pentecost 15.

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

**Morning Prayer** we will be using the form: Week D on p. 38. 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 D on p. 73

\*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.)

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>Exodus 18: 13 - 26;</b>	<b>Revelation 12: 1 - 12;</b>	<b>Matthew 7: 1 - 14</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>Job 40: 1 - 24;</b>	<b>Acts 15: 36 - 16: 5;</b>	<b>John 11: 55 - 12: 8</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>Job 40: 1, 41: 1 - 11;</b>	<b>Acts 16: 6 - 15;</b>	<b>John 12: 9 - 19</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>Job 42: 1 - 17;</b>	<b>Acts 16: 16 - 24;</b>	<b>John 12: 20 - 26</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>Job 28: 1 - 28;</b>	<b>Acts 16: 25 - 40;</b>	<b>John 12: 27 - 36a</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>Esther 1: 1 - 4, 10 - 19;</b>	<b>Acts 17: 1 - 15;</b>	<b>John 12: 36b - 43</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>Esther 2: 5 - 8, 15 - 23;</b>	<b>Acts 17: 16 - 34;</b>	<b>John 12: 44 - 50</b>

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

Guard your Church, O Lord, with your perpetual mercy: and since without your aid we lose our way, draw us always, by your help, away from harm, and steer us towards salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

**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:

Rev Christine – 07964175914; 01334769303

Rev Peter Woodifield – 07747023108

### Rector's Wardens contact numbers:

David Graham Service – 07901947345

Jane Ramsay - 07982252666