



St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



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*8th November 2020
Remembrance Sunday*

Dear friends, we are entering into the season of Remembrance in this very surreal year and learning to live with the restrictions on our lives. This Sunday we are celebrating Remembrance Sunday and I do hope that the readings, prayers and short reflection make a connection with your lives.

Readings

O.T.: Job 19: 21 - 27
N.T.: 1 Corinthians 15: 51 - 57
Gospel: John 6: 37 - 40.

Collect

O God, whose will it is to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace: let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows; and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Reflection

How much can you remember about last year, or the year before, or 2017? I don't know about you, but I can only remember the big events, and precious little else. But 2020 will, I am sure, be different thanks to COVID-19. We will remember an awful lot about 2020 for a very long time, the good, the bad and the ugly. 2020 feels like we are in a war, and in many ways the restrictions that have been imposed on us are more severe than were ever imposed in wartime.



The major difference of this war is that the casualties are exclusively civilian; it is possible and indeed probable that the eventually the death toll arising from COVID will exceed the civilian deaths in World War Two. So our remembering this year will need to be of a very different order to what it normally is. Remembrance Day commemorates the end of

hostilities at the end of World War One, and rightly so, and normally our focus is on those who have sacrificed their lives for their country in wartime, not just those wearing military uniform, but also those like medical orderlies or bomb disposal experts, who were just as much at risk of being killed as soldiers, sailors, fighter pilots and bomber crews. And because every life lost in war is a waste, wherever war takes place, we also need to remember the millions of combatants and non-combatants, who have lost their lives as a result of war.

But this year I think the focus is inevitably rather different. In the United Kingdom we need to remember the 48,000 or so COVID-related deaths, which include hundreds of health and care workers, and it is those and people like them, people who have put themselves at risk to keep society moving these last eight months. One of the great hymns for Remembrance time and funerals is I Vow to Thee My Country. It is an avowedly patriotic hymn, but I think the words are particularly appropriate this year. I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above, Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love; The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test, That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best; The love that never falters, the love that pays the price, The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

What wonderful words and so Gospel-centred. Christine was reminding us a couple of weeks ago that we are commanded to love God with everything that we have and commanded to love our neighbour as ourselves. Love is not optional for us, it is obligatory if we are to be obedient to God. And here is that obedience spelled out – the vow to offer the service of love in all its fullness. That describes Jesus to a T, doesn't it? But it also describes how thousands and thousands of people in this country and around the world have behaved this year, many of whom have no faith as we understand faith. But theirs has been the love that stood the test, the love that never faltered, the love that paid the price. We can over-sentimentalise institutions, and in Britain the NHS has almost become the national religion, and it can feel almost heretical to criticise it. Yet every institution has its failings and the NHS has plenty. But the real point is that

it is individuals who make up the NHS, it is individuals who have paid the price, it is individuals whose love has stood the test, not the NHS itself.

So what do our faith and today's readings have to tell us? Well, for a start, as Christians we are better placed to remember than many, because we do it every week; when we celebrate the Eucharist, even in its current limited form, we remember Jesus' sacrifice for us. And he sacrificed himself for everybody.

Job reminds us that even in the midst of the most terrible tragedies that befell him, his hope in God never wavered. And in our Corinthians reading Paul assures us not only that God has, by Jesus' sacrifice, given us victory over all those things that separate us from Him, but that he is also giving us victory and will give us victory in the future. So death need no longer tyrannise us, need no longer keep us in fear, because death is not the end, rather a staging post on our journey to being with Christ. That assurance of hope is surely the perfect antidote to these months of fear, anxiety, loss of freedom and general restrictions, the knowledge that ultimately God is in control and that we can lay our burdens at the foot of His cross.

Our Gospel reading is sandwiched between two verses in this part of the chapter where Jesus says clearly he is the Bread of Life. And John's Gospel is itself a Gospel of hope. And in these verses Jesus says that those who believe in God are given to Him and for His part he will keep and protect us, including on the day of judgement. Again, isn't that hope and promise encouraging at a time like this, when we need all the hope we can get?

Intercessions and Prayer Requests for Pew Sheet for Remembrance Sunday 2020

In peace let us pray to the Lord. We pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one known and remembered by you. We pray for those who love them in death as in life and for all members of the armed forces who are in danger today, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return. We pray for peacemakers and peacekeepers, all who work to keep this world secure and free. For all who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered and know to you. For leaders of the nations, that you will guide them, and their advisors, in ways of freedom, justice and truth at this critical time. For our Prime Minister and the First Ministers of the devolved governments, in particular our First Minister for Scotland. Whoever the next President will be (unknown at the time of writing). We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm, that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship. We pray for scientists working on vaccines and treatments to treat the world's common enemy Covid-19.

We pray for the wounded and the captive, the grieving and the homeless, those affected by this ongoing global pandemic, that in all their trials they may know your love and support. Pour your blessing upon all church leaders at this time, especially in our SEC Primus Mark

and Bishop John, the churches and communities of our diocese.

We pray for the communities we live in for our shops and businesses, schools and nurseries and for all who are working to support us in these challenging times. We ask your blessing upon our families wherever they are and our neighbours also.

We pray for those who have died in recent days and for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit at this hugely challenging time and for those from our church families who have asked for our prayers, particularly Anthea McAlpin who has now been in hospital for the past four weeks and for Eric Dobson recovering at home after a heart procedure.

And from St Columba's: Norma Nevin (Sandra Buchanan's friend), Geoffrey Gerrard, Kath Stutt, Rev Duncan and Marjorie Shaw, Doug and Pat Laurie, Young Harry, Paul Moffat, Katie McAlpin and Elma Webster.

And from St Peter's: Rita Manion (David's mother), Annie Gibbs (Olivia Moss's future mother in law), Barry Greig (Terry's twin brother), Anna Pink, Joe Lavery, Ronnie Adams, Bob Philip (Andy's father) 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, especially Iain Swanney, Rachel's father, and Chris Belton, Jude Philip's mother, 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: Joyce Williams, Robert Currie, Edith Hickley, Betty Kirk, Mary Kirkland, Mary Mitchell, Arthur Greaves and Marian Matson. And from St Peter's: Yovan Okalo and Bob Wild.

Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Notices

Dear Friends, I do hope that you and your families are keeping well and keeping your spirits up as we journey on through this pandemic, working out what the restrictions mean for us and our families and friends wherever they – all so complicated!

November is upon us with the season of Remembrance that takes onwards to the end of the church year with the Feast of Christ the King on November 22nd. The Church seasons, as does nature, keep their pattern even though life seems to have lost its structure and I find this hugely helpful and hopeful. November is rather busy for our churches:

This coming Sunday – 8th November is **Remembrance**

Sunday. The Act of Remembrance will begin at just after 10.55 in St Columba's and immediately followed by our Sunday Eucharist. In St Peter's the Eucharist will begin 30 minutes later than usual at 10am and will continue up to the Act of Remembrance at 11am.

Like so many things this year, the **Poppy Appeal** has had to adapt the way it reaches out to attract our support. We can donate on line at: www.britishlegion.org.uk and there is a collecting can and box of poppies in St Peter's. On Sunday 15th St Peter's will hold its AGM following our Eucharist and it will be Zoomed for those unable to attend using the same Zoom code and password as Sunday morning worship. Electronic copies of the annual accounts and reports have been circulated and paper based copies will be available this weekend. Our constitution states that one person steps down from vestry each year and Sue Rippon, having faithfully and cheerfully served 6 years, is taking the opportunity to step down. This leaves one position to be filled and nomination forms will be available in church from Sunday and from Catherine our Vestry Secretary ctfowler15@gmail.com to whom all completed nomination forms should be returned. Please remember that the person nominating requires the agreement of the person they are nominating and also a seconder. If having read the reports you have a question or comment it would be very helpful to have them in advance, please send them to Catherine - email details above. Available places are very few now so please contact Jane Ramsay - jane.ramsay48@gmail.com if you would want to attend, if you have not already done so. Jane will let you know by Monday 12th if there is a place for you. If you do not hear from her then please enjoy and participate in the AGM via zoom.

On Sunday 22nd November St Peter's will be holding a short **Family Service** @ 12.30 to celebrate Christ the King. This will be a bookable service so please do get in touch with Jane if you and your family would like to attend. I will be in touch via Claire W this weekend with some thoughts on how we can make this a fitting service for our young people.

St Columba's AGM will be held on Sunday 29th November, more details in next week's notices. In Advent Rev Peter will be running a study based on Paula Gooder's book 'Journey to the Manger'. It will be on Zoom, making it easier for people to participate, and Peter will be endeavouring to make it more interactive. Please let Peter know by email (pw@woodifield.com), mobile (07747023108), WhatsApp, or in person if you would like to join. Friday afternoons seemed to suit most people, but I am open to alternative suggestions. In any event it will run for four weeks starting in the last full week of November.

Sunday morning services from St Peter's @ 9.30 continue to be 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. **IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE.** You now will need a passcode to join the Zoom service (this is due to Zoom's security upgrade). The meeting code is unchanged at 118 321 305. The passcode you need is 670383. Judy Goldfinch will send round the embedded link with the weekly list of Zoom codes. 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 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 - 11.30 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:

· Wear masks and take them 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, but the moving of the organ means that we can now safely seat 14 people in church whilst allowing for the necessary 2-meter distancing. Tuesday morning and Sunday morning services continue to be well attended and everyone is welcome. 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. **PLEASE LET HER KNOW BY THURSDAY OF EACH WEEK.**

· A sides person will ensure that all hands are sanitised 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 sanitised 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 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 – sadly, the new guidelines mean that pastoral visits to people’s homes, including for home communion, are not possible at this time, except in extreme circumstances. Hopefully this restriction won’t be for too long. And please remember that I hold you all in my prayers. Also, at this time we have been advised by the Bishop’s Advisory Group that giving lifts to people, out-with your household, to church is not possible either at this time. This is slightly different to the government guidelines which say ‘not advised’.

Zoom Coffee and chat once a fortnight on a Monday morning. Next one will be held on 9th November @ 11.15. ID 5111791282 password 3i1TYq.

Please look after yourselves and keep well and 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

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 will be <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/756114372?pwd=ZXpMWndaY210empVY1daL09paGlwZz09>

Any queries please contact Rev Peter pw@woodifield.com

For the coming week beginning Sunday 8th November we enter into the week of Pentecost 23.

*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.)

Sunday:	Isaiah 10: 33 – 11: 9;	1 Timothy 2: 1 – 7;	John 14: 23 – 29
Monday:	Joel 1: 1 – 13	Revelation 18: 15 – 124;	Luke 14: 12 – 24
Tuesday:	Joel 1: 15 – 2: 2 (3 – 11);	Revelation 19: 1 – 10: 8;	Luke 14: 25 – 35
Wednesday:	Joel 2: 12– 19;	Revelation 19: 11 – 21;	Luke 15: 1 – 10
Thursday:	Joel 2: 21 – 27; J	ames 1: 1 – 15;	Luke 15: 1 – 2, 11 – 32
Friday:	Joel 2: 28 – 3: 8;	James 1: 16 – 27;	Luke 16: 1 – 9
Saturday:	Joel 3: 9 – 17;	James 2: 1 – 13;	Luke 16: 10 – 17 (18)

The Collects applies to both Morning and Evening Prayer.

The Collect for Remembrance Sunday: O God, whose will it is to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace: let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows; and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

The Collect for the rest of the week:

O God, our refuge and strength, the very author of devotion: hear the prayers of your Church; and grant that what we seek in faith we may in fact obtain; 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:

Rev Christine – 07964175914; 01334769303
Rev Peter Woodifield – 07747023108

Rector's Wardens contact numbers:

David Graham Service – 07901947345
Jane Ramsay - 07982252666