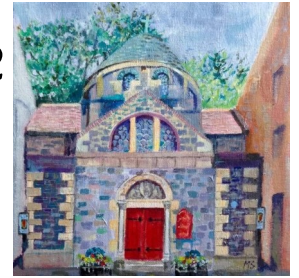




# St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



Rector: Rev Christine Barclay Curate: Rev Peter Woodifield

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11<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
Pentcost 7

**D**EAR FRIENDS, this week we go into the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost — ordinary time, though there is nothing ordinary as we live in the strength of our Lord. I hope these readings, prayers and reflections this Sunday make a connection with you and fill you with hope and encouragement.

### Collect

**O** GOD, you have prepared for those who love you good things no eye has seen: pour into our hearts such love of you, that, by loving you in all things and above all things, we may be worthy of your promises, which surpass all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

### Readings

Amos 7: 7 – 15  
Ephesians 1: 3 – 14  
Mark 6: 14 – 29

### Reflection

**O**UR REIGNING MONARCH, and supreme governor of the Church of England, Queen Elizabeth, is the longest reigning monarch in British history, next year she will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. Until spring of this year our Queen was steadfastly supported by her husband Prince Philip and following his death, she has continued to serve our nation with fortitude supported by her family and strengthened by her faith. She is a truly remarkable lady and an inspiration to us all.

In this week's Gospel reading we get a glimpse into the life of a very different royal family; it is a story of greed and power. King Herod has troubles in his marriage and in his family, he divorced his first wife to marry Herodias, his brother-in-law's wife and as his brother-in-law

was still alive at the time this was against Jewish law. John the Baptist, the fiery preacher challenges him but as we hear in the passage Herod enjoys listening to him, perhaps he spends hours in John's prison cell listening to the truth that cuts in order to heal. It seems that Herod is stuck between a rock and a hard place, lustful for power and yet dissatisfied with what power has made him. So, Herod asks questions, and he wonders, and fears as he learns about Jesus, the one whose sandals John feels unworthy to untie. Maybe Herod asks about God, and baptism and even forgiveness, perhaps he compares the clear message of what life could be like and then looks at his own compromised existence. Maybe, just maybe, he yearns.

But when the time of reckoning comes, when it comes to saving face rather than saving John's life Herod chooses the former. How different it would have been if Herod had passed the test, but when push came to shove his casual fascination with the truth wasn't enough to transform him and he remains a hearer of the good news rather than a doer. To his credit Herod started in the right place, he started with curiosity, with perplexity, but remained a listener, intrigued but not committed. This is a dangerous place to inhabit, for it can lull us into thinking that disinterested fascination with Jesus is enough. But Jesus isn't interested in audience members, he wants followers, us! For we are members of God's family, in which there is no divisiveness, no abuse or manipulation, no discarding of people or their feelings. Instead, a steady flow of love that shows forth not in empty promises but in praise. In baptism we have been adopted into God's family and we are loved beyond measure with a love that reaches out in love and service to others.



What happens next in Mark's



gospel, right after Herod's banquet of death, is that Jesus throws a dinner party – the feeding of more than the five thousand, so very different from Herod's feast. There is no guarded palace just an open field where all are welcome. There is no head of table for everyone is a guest of honour, there is no boasting, only thanksgiving and simple food, blessed, broken

and shared, enough for all. No gruesome silver platter of death, just twelve baskets full to the brimming over with abundant life-giving bread and fish.

Each Eucharist we dine at a table spread before us, where we are offered a banquet of forgiveness, grace and life. Amen.

### Prayers

**C**REATOR GOD, you call us to love and serve you with body, mind and spirit through loving your creation and our brothers and sisters whoever and wherever they are. Open our hearts in compassion and receive our prayers we pray. We pray for those who are committed to following Jesus' teaching aware of their vulnerability to rejection and abuse. As Covid numbers continue to escalate and plans for the lifting of more restrictions on our lives are discussed we pray for responsible living and love of neighbour to govern our lives in the days, weeks and months ahead. With summer holidays upon us we ask your blessing on those planning breaks at home or away, for rest and refreshment. We remember your blessing upon the Church worldwide as it continues to live out the gospel of love, forgiveness and hope.

We ask your blessing upon our Scottish Episcopal Church, for our College of Bishops, in particular Mark our Primus, John our Bishop taking a short sabbatical this summer, and for all who lead and guide us.

We pray for Rev Ruth Innes, and for Caleb Wason and his parents Shaun and Danielle as they prepare for Caleb's baptism on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July during morning worship.

And those from our church families who have asked for our prayers.

**From St Columba's:** Katrina Barron, Tom & Rose MacLaren, Brian Knotts, Lorna Aitken, Kath Stutt, Anthea & Katie McAlpin, Geoffrey Gerrard, Doug and Pat Laurie, Young Harry, Paul & Janice Moffat.

**From St Peter's:** Bob Dobias (a member of Gordon & Liz's family in California), Anna Lovelock,



Kathleen Rae (Anne's friend), Cisley Moss, Michael Patrick (Ruthie's friend), Peter and Marilyn McOwan, Harry and Connie Payne, Rita Manion (David's mother), Annie and Andy Gibbs (Olivia's in-laws), Joe Lavery, Bob Philip (Andy's father), Dot Pringle, Brenda Cook, Father John, Ruthie Cadell, David Szkudlarek, Jan Robson; and for all their families.

We pray for the souls of those who have died in recent days, including Heather Westbrook's friend Carol Colcough, and for all who mourn, and we remember those connected with our church families whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

**From St Columba's:** Christina Strachan, Barbara Ewing and Neil McNeil.

**From St Peter's:** Jack Taylor, Helen Duff and Frank Carlross.

### 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, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.



### Church Notices

Dear friends, summer is rolling on and with it some likely lifting of Covid restrictions in the coming weeks. I will keep you updated on any changes that affect our church life!

Rev Peter has been on holiday this past week and will be back with us next week, hopefully refreshed and all set for his final two weeks with us. With the requirement still being for 2-meter social distancing in church St Peter's is as full as it can be on Sundays so please do remember to book your seat – everyone is welcome to request a seat, whether a family group or otherwise, so book with Jane 843176 as soon as possible if you would like to attend a Sunday service.

Services for the coming week – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: St Peter's @ 9.30am (Zoomed live), St Columba's @ 11.15am Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July: St Peter's Eucharist @ 10.30am. Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July: St Columba's Eucharist @ 10.30. Rev Peter's fourth and final study on the Parables will be held next Friday (16<sup>th</sup>) and will be looking at the Unjust Steward. The code is in the weekly Zoom list. All are welcome.

Pastoral Visiting If you would like me to come and visit, or if you know of someone who would appreciate a visit, please do let me know. And please be assured that Rev Peter and I hold you all in our prayers each and every day.

The latest edition of The Communicant (the Edinburgh diocesan news sheet) is available now on the Diocesan website, via this link: <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/publications/thecommunicant/>

Nothing can stop the Provincial Youth Week! Glen 21 has now been confirmed for 1-7 August. It will be

a 'blended' week of online interactivity, offline things to do and some in-person meet-ups in regional hubs around the Province. Places are filling up fast! Booking is still open, so if there are teenagers connected to your church who need something to look forward to this summer, direct them to [Glen21.online](http://Glen21.online) for full information, FAQs and booking details. If you have any questions about Glen 21 please feel free to email Claire at [YouthandChildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:YouthandChildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org). Claire Benton-Evans.



Amazon has changed its donation setting to Smile Amazon. Please remember, when you use Amazon to order goods, it's easy to change to Smile Amazon, which gives 0.5% to your chosen charity. St Columba's has registered. Go to your search bar in the app and type in smile amazon. The easy to follow guide will help you change your account setting to the Smile version. That way we can increase our donations. Thank you.

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

Morning, Evening and Night Prayer 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 and Evening Prayer each day in their own homes and invite you to join in from yours.

On Thursday mornings at 9am they 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=ZXpMWndaY210empVY1daL09paGluZz09>

Meeting ID: 991 1810 8400 Passcode: 143983

For the coming week beginning on Pentecost 7 (Trinity 6). On Monday we celebrate Drostan of Deer, Abbot, c.600 and on Tuesday we celebrate Benedict of Nursia, Abbot, c.550.

Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Week D	2 Samuel 7:18-29	Romans 15:14-29	Luke 19:41 - 20:8
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Week D	1 Samuel 18:5-16, 27b-30	Acts 11:19-30	Mark 1:29-45
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Week D	1 Samuel 19:1-18	Acts 12:1-17	Mark 2:1-12
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Week D	1 Samuel 20:1-23	Acts 12:18-25	Mark 2:13-22
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Week D	1 Samuel 20:24-42	Acts 13:1-12	Mark 2:23 - 3:6
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Week D	1 Samuel 21:1-15	Acts 13:13-25	Mark 3:7-19a
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Week D	1 Samuel 22:1-23	Acts 13:26-43	Mark 3:19b-35

**The Collect for the week Proper 15 Sunday between 10 and 16 July**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you good things no eye has seen: pour into our hearts such love of you, that, by loving you in all things and above all things, we may be worthy of your promises, which surpass all we can desire; 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 Woodfield – 07747023108

**Rector's Wardens contact numbers:**

David Graham Service – 07901947345  
 Jane Ramsay - 07982252666