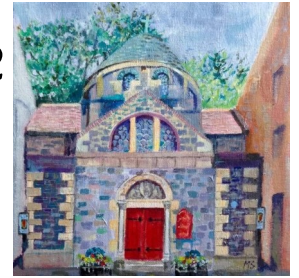




St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



Rector: Rev Christine Barclay

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10th October 2021
Pentecost 20

DEAR FRIENDS, this Sunday our readings remind us to keep our eyes, ears and hearts open to seek God who will lead us ever forward in ways we cannot know, we only have to trust. I hope that they, the reflection and prayers make a connection with you.

Collect

O LORD, since without you we cannot please you: let the work of your mercy in all things guide 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.

Readings

Job 23: 1 – 9, 16 – 17
Hebrews 4: 12 – 16
Mark 10: 17 - 31

Reflection

SEeking God is a quest that alters our whole outlook on life and it is a journey that lasts a lifetime. As one commentator put it 'seeking God isn't a casual hobby, or a weekend interest'. In actively seeking God will be listening and looking attentively, questioning our motives for doing things and the way we behave. In other words, we won't be keeping God in a cupboard for Sundays and living our lives cut off from God the other 6 days! The very seeking of God will change us, and it will change us by changing our hearts. In our Old Testament reading from the Book of Job we are shown a God-fearing upright man who is steadfastly seeing God with all his heart, even though he feels surrounded by thick darkness and unable to find God. Even in the darkness and silence, Job continues to

seek, trusting that God knows where he is and will eventually reveal himself. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews has obviously seen and experienced this process and likens the power of the word of God to a sharp sword – or perhaps for us the image of a surgeon's scalpel – with its precise, clean cut, enabling the work of healing to begin. Once the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts begin being transformed, through God's power, hope is in sight for us all! As we read in the gospel reading; a keen young man comes running up to Jesus, he wants to know how he can inherit eternal life. As is Jesus' usual proactive he doesn't give a direct answer, rather he picks up on the young man's thinking, as show in calling Jesus 'good'. For his seeking has already led him to recognise goodness in this preacher, and Jesus helps him along the journey to look at what God's ideas of goodness are, and where that challenges the young man's life. When he moves away frowning, it isn't that he disagrees with Jesus, but that he has just realised that Jesus is correct. Like the young man, we who seek find Jesus challenging us, and then we, like him, have to choose whether to go on with the search, or press cancel!

Prayers

CREATOR GOD, we thank you for the splendour and beauty of creation; for the ordered succession of seasons; for your love which made the world. We thank you for the good and fertile earth; for the fruits of the earth in their seasons; for the life that sustains our life; for the food that we daily enjoy. We thank you for those whose labour supplies our physical needs; for those who harvest our crops, those who transport them, those who process them, those who sell them. Loving



Lord, we pray for those who have no harvest to celebrate, no crops to gather, or labour to pursue. We pray for those who live on land that is hard to farm, scratching out a living in a hostile soil, amidst rocky ground and scorching earth. We pray for those who have no living from the earth and for those who have left their homes, driven by war or want, to become refugees, dependent on others. We pray for a sustainable resolution to the delivery crisis and for workable policies to help our nation and its citizens play our part in reducing our carbon footprint.

We pray for your Church worldwide, especially for those who are persecuted for following Jesus. We pray for Mark our Primus and the College of Bishops, for John our Bishop and for all the charges and communities of our diocese. We ask your blessing on the churches of Bathgate and Linlithgow, for the projects and the journeys we share with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray for the pain of the world, for all in need of your healing grace.

We continue to pray for Rev Ruth Innes and Clare Armes and those from our church families who have asked for our prayers:

From St Columba's Jim Marshall, Katrina Barron, Tom and Rose MacLaren, Brian Knotts, Lorna Aitken, Kath Stutt, Anthea and Katie McAlpin, Geoffrey and Hazel Gerrard, Doug and Pat Lawrie, Young Harry and Paul and Janice Moffat.

And from St Peter's Pat and Jim Bryce, Gordon Dumayne, Anna Lovelock, Kathleen Rae (Anne's friend), Cislely Moss, Peter and Marilyn McOwan, Harry and Connie Payne, Rita Manion (David's mother), Annie and Andy Gibb's (Olivia's in-laws), Bob Philip (Andy's father), Dot Pringle, Brenda Cook, Father John, Ruthie Caddell, David Szkudlarek, Jan Robson, and for all their families. We pray for those who have died in recent days and for all who mourn. May they know the comfort of your presence.

We remember those connected with our church families whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

From St Columba's Joan Barham and Roger Williams.

From St Peter's Marjory Hutton, Robert Hodges, Agnes Miller, Derek Lines, Margaret Harrison, Ivy Baldock, Annie Lindie and Mary Dobson.

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



Notices

AUTUMN IS MARCHING ON with the changeable weather and the shorter days but when it is dry and sunny the golden carpet of fallen leaves are wonderful to walk on, that huge spectrum of autumn colour that the catch the sun's rays. Such a hopeful reminder to us that God's creation keeps the seasons turning even in these strange times. In church we continue to follow safe covid practices so please do continue to get in touch with Jane – 843176 if you wish to attend Sunday worship in St Peter's as we are still limited to 22 available places. I will be heading up the A9 this weekend to the Black Isle on retreat and will be away all of next week. Rev Jim Mein will be leading worship in both our churches on Sunday morning and our midweeks service will be reserved communion eucharists. Details in 'Services of the coming week'. My wardens Jane (07982252666) and David (07901947345) will be 'holding the forts'!

Services for the coming week:

20th Sunday after Pentecost 10th October:

St Peter's @ 9.30am and St Columba's @ 11.15am. Services will be led by The Very Rev Jim Mein

Tuesday 12th – St Peter's Midweek Reserved Communion Eucharist @ 10.30am led by Ian Wallace

Wednesday 6th – St Columba's Midweek Reserved Communion Eucharist @ 10.30am led by David Graham Service

Harvest Festival

A big thank you to those who came into our two churches last Saturday decorated with harvest fruits, vegetables and flowers, our churches looked splendid.

Thank you also to all who gave goods or donations to both the Memory Café in Bathgate and Falkirk Foodbank. Our Harvest Festival services were such bright and colourful occasions and it was good to sing some of our lovely harvest hymns, albeit behind masks! St Peter's had a joyful Harvest service for children and parents at lunchtime too; it was so good to have them back in church again. Thank you also to everyone who has contributed with foodstuffs and financial donations to our two causes. We will keep the financial donation opportunity open until Sunday 17th October.

Financial donations can be brought to church and left in the plate, please mark envelopes 'Harvest Donations'. Sending cheques: for St Peter's: a cheque payable to "St Peter's Episcopal Church" to John Aitken, Sulisker, Boghall, Linlithgow EH49 7GR will be most

welcome. Or you can pop it, in the form of cash or a cheque, through Judy Goldfinch's letterbox at 1 Royal Terrace. You should write "Harvest Donations" on the back, so that Judy knows what it is for. For St Columba's: a cheque, payable to "St Columba's Episcopal Church" to Danielle Dewhurst, 31 New Holygate, Broxburn EH52 5RN. Please mark it "Harvest Donations" on the back. St Peter's have a Just Giving Campaign for those who wish to contribute on line and St Columba's are invited to contribute in this way too if they wish. Contributions can be made by going to: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/harvest-thanks>. For those who use Internet banking: St Peter's: into St Peter's bank account, with the reference "HARVEST": Bank of Scotland, Linlithgow Account St Peter's Episcopal Church, Sort Code: 80-17-37 Account No. 00293233. St Columba's: St Columba's bank account, with the reference "HARVEST": Royal Bank of Scotland, Account: St Columba's Episcopal Church Bathgate. Sort Code: 83-16-05 Account No: 00213096.

Occasionally @ St Michael's is a series of recitals by local musicians. Admission is free with donations invited for church funds. On Sunday 17th October from 3 – 4pm Alison on viola and Alan Hastie on piano re will perform Mozart Piano Sonata in F, Biber Passacaglia 'The Guardian Angel' and Vieuxtemps Sonata for Viola and Piano.

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/thecomunicant/>

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. Please be assured that I hold you all in my prayers each and every day.

Rev Christine

SEC Morning, Evening and Night Prayer Liturgies

Morning, Evening and Night Prayer liturgies are available at www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices

Rev Christine will be saying Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer each day at home and invites you to join in from yours.

Sunday 10 th	Week A	Proverbs 3:1-18	1 John 3:1-15	Mark 10:17-31
Monday 11 th	Week A	Jeremiah 36:11-26	1 Corinthians 13:(1-3), 4-13	Matthew 10:5-15
Tuesday 12 th	Week A	Jeremiah 36:27 - 37:2	1 Corinthians 14:1-12	Matthew 10:16-23
Wednesday 13 th	Week A	Jeremiah 37:3-21	1 Corinthians 14:13-25	Matthew 10:24-33
Thursday 14 th	Week A	Jeremiah 38:1-13	1 Corinthians 14:26-33a, 37-40	Matthew 10:34-42
Friday 15 th	Week A	Jeremiah 38:14-28	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Matthew 11:1-6
Saturday 16 th	Week A	2 Kings 25:8-12, 22-26	1 Corinthians 15:12-29	Matthew 11:7-15

On Thursday mornings at 9am a virtual service will be shared via Zoom™. If you would like to join in, the link every week will be:

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

Meeting ID: 991 1810 8400 Passcode: 143983

For the coming week beginning on Pentecost 20 (Trinity 19). On Monday we celebrate Kenneth, Abbot, 600, on Tuesday we celebrate Elizabeth Fry, 1845, on Friday we celebrate Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582

The Collect for the week Proper 28 Sunday between 9th and 15th October

O Lord, since without you we cannot please you: let the work of your mercy in all things guide 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.

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 number:

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Rector's Wardens contact numbers:

David Graham Service – 07901947345

Jane Ramsay - 07982252666