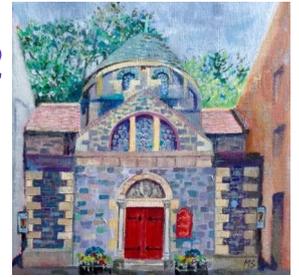




St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



Rector: Rev Christine Barclay

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28th November 2021
Advent 1

DEAR FRIENDS, this Sunday the Church begins a new year and once more we enter into the season of Advent. The gathered hopes of generations remind us to get ourselves ready, so that Christ's return will be a day of excitement and great joy. I do hope that the readings, prayers and short reflection help you enter into this most wonderful season filled with the magical Christmas lights and candles and Christmas carols.

Collect

STIR UP YOUR POWER, Lord, and come: that, with you as our protector, we may be rescued from our sins; and with you as our deliverer, we may be set free;
for you live and reign with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Readings

Jeremiah 33: 14 – 16
1 Thessalonians 3: 9 – 13
Luke 21: 25 – 36

Reflection

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT readings are filled with a sense of expectancy. One commentator suggests that it is rather like knowing that when you come of age you will inherit a fortune, or that in another few years your ISA will mature. Only this is rather more mind blowing than mere financial hope. For the promise is there and stands sure, and God, ever faithful will keep his promise. Eventually, when the time is right, he will gather up all the goodness and honour and patience and long-suffering that has been grown throughout the ages, and bring all things to completion. This week's readings speak to the deep-seated longing of humanity for right and justice to triumph. They speak to your yearning for a final end to all the cruelty, injustices and misery of our world. Of course, it is serious, and sombre, to be considering the

winding up of all the created universe as we know it, and it is very necessary to be reminded of our need to be ready by the lives we are leading. The ongoing Covid pandemic and climate emergency are daily reminders for us. Thankfully, running through the readings is a clear, bright shaft of strong and exhilarating hope, which we can catch and make our own. God is so familiar with our world, he too hears the cry, generation by generation, of those who find faith in a good God impossible because they are overwhelmed by the sorrows and tragedies screaming at them. But ultimately, as Christ has already shown us on the cross, and in his risen life, it is good that triumphs, and God's harvesting at the end of time will be a glorious celebration of all that is just, right and loving. This is not wishful thinking but hope, in all its integrity. Advent is a reminder of the ready-state, be awake and ready for the return of God, as well as the great celebration of Christmas. We are called to be ready and be awake because the love of God will disrupt, God's love will explode and turn over our comfortable notions of how things ought to be. God will launch us into the air and into the waters of justice, peace, presence and love. So, in this season of Advent as we journey to the Manger once more to celebrate God incarnate coming among us, let us make time for some watchfulness over the coming 4 weeks. Amen.

Prayers

GENEROUS GOD, you promised us your salvation through the prophets, and that in you we will find healing and peace. We come to you, for in our coming we turn away from the darkness and enter into the light of your presence and your love. As we set out on our Advent journey, inspire your Church with fervent love for you and for all humanity, to grow in holiness and in your service. We pray for our Scottish Episcopal Church, the College of Bishops, our Primus Mark and John our Bishop and all who



profess faith in your Son. Teach us to look for the signs of your will and to be always ready for your calling. Cleanse the world of selfish indulgence and the excesses that make people deaf to your word. Bless all nations, that they may be governed with true judgement and righteous dealing. Fill us, in our families and friendships, with love for one another. Keep us faithful in prayer, when we are together and when we are apart. We come to you for renewal and healing, for strength and for light. Pour your healing grace on all who suffer in body, mind or spirit and we hold before you all who have asked for our prayers: for Rev Ruth Innes and those from our church families who have asked for our prayers:

From St Columba's Douglas and Muriel Laidlaw, 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 Jane Bruce's mum, Marg and Laurie (Heather's sister and brother in law) David Olwa, John Barker, Pat and Jim Bryce, Gordon Dumayne, Kathleen Rae (Anne's friend), Cisley 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. We remember all our loved ones departed and those connected with our church families whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

From St Columba's Helen Aitken, Mabel Dobson, Stanley Durkin, Alan Bailey and Olive Furness.

From St Peter's Agnes Bianchi and Isobel Reed.

Blessing

CHRIST THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.



Notices

This Sunday the Church turns over the calendar into a new year and into the season of Advent, the season of hope as we begin our journey to the manger and make our Christmas preparation, not quite as restricted this year we hope. Little by little we have reclaimed aspects of our worship and church life and this Sunday to mark the beginning of the new church year will be claiming back coming to the altar to receive the consecrated bread. Safe practices are in place in each church and those attending will be guided into the new arrangements. I will continue to bring bread to those who wish to remain in their seats, please let a sides person know

when you come into church.

Guidance for receiving Communion at the rail at St Columba's from Advent Sunday

From Advent Sunday we will once again be going to the communion rail to receive our communion. We still must ensure that it is undertaken in a safe manner. There will be 4 marked places at the rail where you stand to receive your communion. As we currently do the wafer will be dropped into your hand and once the priest has moved away you remove mask, consume wafer, and replace mask. We will sanitise our hands before and after receiving communion, this is because we may have touched the handrails etc on the way to and from the rail. There will be two sanitising points one at the end of the choir stall on the way up and the other on a table at the foot of the chancel steps on the way back.

There will be a one-way system in place except between the choir stalls where you are asked to keep to the left going up and returning from the rail. There will be someone on hand to ensure we all follow the procedure.

In summary:

- At the Communion,
- Choir & organist will receive communion first with only 4 members leaving their seats at a time.
- Please leave your seat by moving into the central aisle.
- Ensure a 1m space between you and the person in front.
- Proceed to the top of the chancel steps keeping to the left.
- Sanitise your hands.
- Proceed to the rail and **stand** in front of one of the **marked spaces**.
- After receiving Communion move to the foot of the chancel steps keeping to the left.
- Sanitise your hands.
- Move to the outer aisle turning left (window side) and walk round the church until you return to your seat entering your row from the outer aisle side.

Guidance for receiving communion at St Peter's will be intimated at the start of worship on Sunday morning. Being a smaller church it should be relatively straightforward, I hope! 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. We will be offering coffees and teas again after Sunday morning services beginning this Advent Sunday as is done on a Tuesday. We now have a rota for this – two people masked and preparing things in the kitchen then bringing the refreshments down on the trolley to be served to the eagerly awaiting congregation. We will have to remain seated but chairs can be turned around for more social interaction amongst friends and best of all whilst seated, masks can be removed. Another small but significant step in the life of our church.

Services for the coming week:

Advent Sunday – 28th November:

St Peter's @ 9.30 and St Columba's @ 11.15am

In the evening – Advent Taize Service at Boghall Parish Church Bathgate @ 6.30pm

Linlithgow Churches Advent Carol Service in St Michael's Parish Church @ 7pm

Tuesday 30th November the Feast of St Andrew – St Peter's Midweek Eucharist @ 10.30am

Wednesday 2nd December – St Columba's Midweek @ 10.30am

St Columba's AGM. I hereby give notice that St Columba's AGM will be held after worship on Sunday 5th December. Under the terms of our constitution one vestry member stands down at the AGM and this will leave one vestry position to be filled. Nomination Forms will be in Church from this weekend.

Life Together – there will be no December issue this year, instead a bumper January edition will be put together with stories and pictures from all that we are going to get up to in the coming Advent and festive season. Bruce's contribution is already with our editor! So please do help make this next edition a special one to lift everyone's spirits during the dark January days. Editor Peter will be pleased to receive your contributions whenever you have them ready and the final date for contributing is **Sunday 9th January 2022.**

Alastair Small is proposing putting on a series of three **Advent Studies** on the first chapter of the Gospel of St John if there is sufficient interest (6 people or more). They would be held on Thursdays at 3pm. This opportunity is for members of both St Columba's and St Peter's.

Session 1 2nd December Verses 1 – 5 In the beginning was the word

Session 2 9th December Verses 12 – 13

Session 3 16th December Verse 14 The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory.

Alastair would prefer to hold the studies in St Columba's Meeting Room, but would be prepared to hold them on Zoom if that is what people wish and if he can master the technology. If you are interested, please let him know by email to

aandcsmall@tiscali.co.uk, or phone 01506 656425 (mobile 07860 147541)

The Scottish Episcopal Institute, the ministry training body of our Scottish Episcopal Church is offering an **Advent Series: 'Reading the Bible like an Episcopalian' for Advent.**

Registration is free and open to all. It will be delivered via Zoom. The link is [here](#),

Please note that it goes over the four weeks of Advent, from 7pm to 8pm, on the four Mondays, as follows:

Monday 29 November: The Bible's authority: Who's got the last word?

Monday 06 December: Praying with the Bible: Why a Book of Common Prayer?

Monday 13 December: The Bible in the Enlightenment: Who's the light of the world?

Monday 20 December: The Bible in the twenty-first century: How do we read it?

Knitted Angels for gifting this Christmas. Last Christmas our prayerfully knitted angels were such a lovely surprise to those who received them. This year I suggest that we knit them for people in the care homes in our communities. St Columba's angels will be given to Meadowvale Care Home and St Peter's to Linlithgow Care Home, The Bield Sheltered Housing and Linlithgow Day Care Centre. St Peter's are sharing this project with St John's Church. **See back page for the pattern**

NEWS FROM LYPP

Over the year LYPP do many great things through their support of young people and their families in our communities. With Advent now upon us and Christmas only weeks away they are asking for support to help them reach their goal of raising £30k in 30 fundraising years – they are nearly there. Please find the time to visit their stall at this Saturday's Advent Fayre and purchase a gift large or small to help them reach that amazing target and continue their work.

A generous offer has been made to LYPP from SOCIAL BITE who are gifting 70 Christmas Trees to local charities for them either to use themselves or to bring the spirit of Christmas into the homes of those who are finding this Christmas as challenging as it was last year. If you know of a family who would love to fill their home with that special smell and colour that only a real Christmas Tree can bring, please contact – BARBARA HAIG – Barbara.haig@social-bite.co.uk

Resumption of the St Columba's Film Club: The film club will resume on the third Monday of every month from Monday 17th January 2022. Tea or coffee will be available from 6.45 with the film starting at 7pm. The evening will be free of any charge but a £4.00 suggested donation would be appreciated for church funds. A programme of films will be available soon.

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.

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=ZXpMWndaY210empVY1daL09paGluZz09>

Meeting ID: 991 1810 8400 Passcode: 143983

For the coming week beginning on the Advent 1

Sunday is Advent Sunday. On Tuesday we celebrate Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland, on Wednesday we remember Charles de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara 1916, on Friday we remember Francis Xavier, Missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552 and on Saturday we remember John of Damascus, Monk, Teacher c 749 and Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community 1637.

Also, on Tuesday we have a day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Missionary work of the church for which there are some special readings identified:

Isaiah 49: 1-6, Isaiah 52: 7-10, Mica 4: 1-5,

Acts 17:12 - end, 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2, Ephesians 2: 13 – end

Psalms 2; 46; 47

Matthew 5: 13-16, Matthew 28: 16 – end, John 17: 20 - end

The Collect for the week of Advent 1 (except Tuesday)

Stir up your power, Lord, and come: that, with you as our protector, we may be rescued from our sins; and with you as our deliverer, we may be set free; for you live and reign with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Tuesday Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland

Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son, Jesus Christ: give us, who are called by your holy Word, the grace to follow him without delay, and to be messengers of the good news of your kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Sunday 28 th	Anticipation	Isaiah 1.1-20	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11	John 3.1-17
Monday 29 th	Anticipation	Amos 1.1-3,13-2.16 2	2 Peter 1.1-11	Matthew 21.1-11
Tuesday 30 th	Festivals	Isaiah 49.1-6	1 Cor 4.1-16	Matthew 4.18-22
Wednesday 1 st	Anticipation	Amos 3.12-4.5 2	2 Peter 3.1-10	Matthew 21.23-32
Thursday 2 nd	Anticipation	Amos 4.6-13 2	2 Peter 3.11-18	Matthew 21.33-46
Friday 3 rd	Anticipation	Amos 5.1-17	Jude 1-16	Matthew 22.1-14
Saturday 4 th	Anticipation	Amos 5.18-27	Jude 17-25	Matthew 22.15-22

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:
Rev Christine – 07964175914

Rector's Wardens contact numbers:
David Graham Service – 07901947345
Jane Ramsay – 07982252666

WHITE BABY WOOL

To check tension – Using No. 8 needles 24sts x 21 rows in garter stitch should measure 5 ins. Finished square 5ins x 5 ins.

No. 8 needles cast on 24sts knit 42 rows in garter stitch, cast off.

Using the same wool stitch a triangle from top centre to middle left side, straight across to right side and back up angled to top centre. Pull tight and insert a small cotton wool ball inside for head.

Tie off tightly leaving a length

