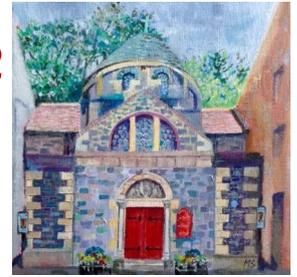




# St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



**Rector: Rev Christine Barclay**

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**21<sup>st</sup> November 2021**  
**Christ the King**

**T**HIS SUNDAY IS THE LAST SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR when we celebrate that Jesus Christ is the everlasting King whose kingdom is not of this world, but grows in the hearts of his people and lasts for ever. I hope that the readings, reflection and prayers make a connection with you.

### Collect

**A**LMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, whose will it is to restore all things in the kingdom of your well-beloved Son: mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; 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.

### Readings

Daniel 7:9 – 10, 13 – 14  
Rev 1: 4b – 8  
John 18: 33 – 37

### Reflection

**I**T IS ALWAYS DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE HEAVENLY THINGS in terms of our human experience, but Daniel tries to give a faithful account of his vision of the one he calls the Ancient of Days, sensing the 'everness' of his wisdom and power, his piercing integrity and all-knowing perception. Images of rivers of fire, throne and vast crowds worshipping help to give us some idea of God's glory as the source and sustainer of all. Daniel witnesses the moment of one like a son of man entering heaven and receiving the authority and dominion which are his for ever. We who have met Jesus in the Gospels, and heard him refer often to himself as 'Son of Man', recognise the one who enters heaven as Lord and Saviour who loved us enough to die for us. Our Gospel passage refers to Jesus' conversation with Pilate, just before his crucifixion.

Jesus tells the Roman governor, who represents the worldly power and authority of the whole

Roman Empire, that his kingdom is not of this world. He is not therefore a threat to the authorities in terms of violent uprising and revolt. The kingdom of God is far more powerful, far reaching and long-lasting than any empire. In the reading from Revelation we are back in the world of vision and prophecy, written for those who had witnessed the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, the outpouring of God's Spirit in tongues of flame as Pentecost, and the whole business of living as followers of Christ in an often hostile world. There will come a time when Christ the everlasting King will appear in all his glory, and every eye shall see him. The Church's year has come full circle.

We began last Advent by preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus, both at his birth into our world and at the second coming. We have walked with Jesus through his life and ministry, led mainly this year by Mark's dynamic Gospel account. We have watched Jesus and listened to him, sorrowed and rejoiced with him. We have seen the gradual understanding of the disciples and their transformation through the gift of the Holy Spirit. And now, as we celebrate Jesus, King of all ages and nations, for this, living and dying and rising for this, we proclaim the basic Christian belief which will enable us to, once again, press forward into our Advent Preparation changed as we have been over the past year by all that we have lived through and experienced. Amen.

### Prayers

**C**HRISt IN MAJESTY, all things are fulfilled in you. We bow before your throne of grace. Increase our confidence in your redeeming love. May you rule in our hearts as we



dedicate all that we are and all that we have in your service. Gracious Father, we pray for the Church, that it may bear convincing witness to its trust in you; that all things find their completion in your Son. We pray for our Scottish Episcopal



Church, College of Bishops, especially Bishop Anne and her husband Roger following the death of their daughter Milly on Monday evening. For Primus Mark and John our Bishop and all who profess faith in your Son. Strengthen us in the power of your Holy Spirit to proclaim your glory.

Eternal Ruler, we pray for all who exercise power and rule for a time on earth, for those whose self-understanding is corrupted by the power they hold. May all who govern always be mindful of the responsibility committed to their charge, that they may work for a just and cohesive society. We pray for the leaders of nations returning home from COP26 to be faithful to their promises and pledges in the global race to reduce carbon emissions. Suffering Servant, you showed your glory in human frailty and suffering. We pray for all who are ground down by suffering of body, mind or spirit.

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** 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** 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** Arthur Greaves, Marian Matison, Mike Barron, Nessie Fish and Andrew Allen.

**From St Peter's** Bob Wilde, Frank Swires, Eileen McIndoe, Albert Earle and Peter Lawton.

### Blessing

**T**HE GOD OF ALL GRACE, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.



### Notices

**T**HIS SUNDAY THE CHURCH CELEBRATES the Feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday in the church calendar, sometimes referred to as 'stir-up Sunday'. A tradition started back in Victorian times when families would come together to get their fruit

puddings stirred up, steamed and stored ahead of Christmas. I am not sure how many people still make their own Christmas puddings, I must own up that I now don't but with any luck the day will stir me up into getting into gear with my Christmas preparations! Advent and Christmas preparations for our two churches are in hand and next week's Church Notices will include details of services and events right up to Christmas Day. This will be our second Advent and Christmas season in this ongoing pandemic and as winter approaches we are being ever vigilant in keeping ourselves and others safe both in church and in the rest of our lives. 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. It is intended to begin offering coffees and teas again after Sunday morning services 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:

#### ***The Feast of Christ the King – 21<sup>st</sup> November***

St Peter's @ 9.30 to be followed by AGM and St Columba's @ 11.15am with Bishop Douglas Presiding and David Graham Service Preaching

#### **Tuesday 13<sup>rd</sup> November**

St Peter's Midweek Eucharist @ 10.30am

#### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

St Columba's Midweek @ 10.30am

**St Peter's AGM** will be held after worship this Sunday (21<sup>st</sup> November). In accordance with our Constitution one constituent member of Vestry steps down each AGM; Paul Hammond stepping down this year. This leaves one for a constituent member. Catherine Fowler our current Vestry Secretary is stepping down but will remain on vestry. This leaves the position of Vestry Secretary that will be appointed from the new vestry. Current vestry members who are remaining post AGM are eligible as will the new member. Anyone interested in this position who wishes more information on what the post requires should contact myself, Catherine or Jane. Nominations are invited for the position and forms available in church and should be submitted to Vestry Secretary Catherine by Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November please.

**St Columba's AGM.** I hereby give notice that St Columba's AGM will be held after worship on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November **Linlithgow Churches Advent Carol Service** in St Michael's Parish

Church @ 7pm

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November **Advent Taize Service** at Boghall Parish Church @ 6.30pm

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 2<sup>nd</sup> December Verses 1 – 5 In the beginning was the word

Session 2 9<sup>th</sup> December Verses 12 – 13

Session 3 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:aandcsmall@tiscali.co.uk), or phone 01506 656425 (mobile 07860 147541); or, if a member of St Columba's, add your name to a sign-up sheet in the Meeting Room.

**Knitted Poppies.** Thank you to Jean, Lyn and others from St Peter's who knitted lovely poppies for decorating our altar steps on Remembrance Sunday. Lyn's poppies I took over to Bathgate Memory Café for our November get together when Remembrance was our theme. There were the exact number of poppies for our guests and volunteers.

**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 wonder if we might 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 pattern on back page)

**St Columba's are hosting a Christmas Afternoon Tea** on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December. 12.30pm for 1pm till 3pm. Tickets will be on sale this Sunday at £8.00 each.

Numbers will be limited due to COVID so please see Sandra Dobson or Jackie Jackson if you would like to come along.

If anyone from St Peter's would like to attend please do get in touch. We have some entertainment for you during the afternoon along with a raffle. If anyone would like to donate a raffle prize please bring it along on Sunday. 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 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=ZXpMWndaY210empVY1daL09paGlvZz09>

Meeting ID: 991 1810 8400 Passcode: 143983

For the coming week beginning on the last Sunday of Pentecost. Sunday is Christ the King. On Monday we celebrate Cecilia, Martyr, c.230, on Tuesday we celebrate Clement of Rome, Bishop and Martyr, c.100, on Wednesday we celebrate Lucy Menzies, 1954, on Thursday we celebrate Columban, Bishop, 615 (translated from 21 November).

Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Week C	1 Maccabees 2:15-29	Revelation 3:7-22	Matthew 28:16-20
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Week C	Joel 3:1-2, 9-17	1 Peter 1:1-12	Matthew 19:1-12
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Week C	Nahum 1:1-13	1 Peter 1:13-25	Matthew 19:13-22
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Week C	Obadiah 15-21	1 Peter 2:1-10	Matthew 19:23-30
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Week C	Zephaniah 3:1-13	1 Peter 2:11-25	Matthew 20:1-16
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Week C	Isaiah 24:14-23	1 Peter 3:13 - 4:6	Matthew 20:17-28
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Week C	Micah 7:11-20	1 Peter 4:7-19	Matthew 20:29-34

***The Collect for the week Proper 33 Sunday between 20<sup>th</sup> November and 26<sup>th</sup> November (Christ the King)***

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in the kingdom of your well-beloved Son: mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; 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.

**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.



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

