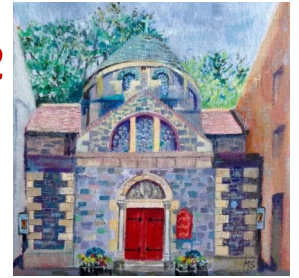




St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



Rector: Rev Christine Barclay

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14th November 2021
Remembrance Sunday

THIS SUNDAY IS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, the day our nation remembers the service and sacrifice of all who have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life through two World Wars and later conflicts. I hope that the readings, reflection and prayers make a connection with you.

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.

Readings

Job 19: 21-27
1 Corinthians 15: 51-57
John 6: 37- 40

Reflection

Remembering...

IN OUR CHURCH CALENDAR we are in the season of Remembrance, this is the time of year for remembering those who have died; memory is an important part of being human, and our memories of those we have loved help shape us in important ways. Earlier this month we commemorated All Saints and All Souls and next weekend the culmination of the church year, the Feast of Christ the King – the day on which we can think of all our remembering being gathered up into Christ. All focus on remembering and mutual belonging.

On Remembrance Sunday we continue the theme of memory, both corporate and individual, as we confront the issues of war and peace, loss and self-gift, memory and forgetting. Many of us will have had, or have,

family and friends who have faced the atrocities of war and its legacy, and one or two have seen 'first hand' and for them today will be one of 'remembering'. My father was born too late to be 'called up' for active service in the 2nd world war but he did have to complete his National Service, so I don't have the heroic or difficult stories of war told by one who had been there; my grandfather who did serve was of the generation who didn't, rightly or wrongly, speak of what they had seen or experienced. But I do have very close friends who are currently involved in military careers and how costly this is for their parents, even if it is their son's or daughter's calling. And until a few years ago we used to be part of that ceremonial bringing home of fallen service men and women as they were driven through the lined streets of Wootton Bassett. The good people of that town so respectfully remembering...each one of those brought home will have been part of someone's family, shared friendships and attended parties and weddings – they belonged to others, and they were, and still are, part of our belonging. For me, this is what Remembrance Sunday is about – if we do not remember our past – where we have come from, as a nation, as a society, we will not know who we are – Remembrance Sunday says something about our identity, our sense of mutual belonging, mutual belonging with those around us, those who have gone before us and those who are yet to come – we are all bound together.

And it is right that we should honour those who have gone before us, especially those whose lives have been cut short in war. On Saturday evening millions of us will watch the poignant Festival of Remembrance from The Albert Hall and on Sunday millions of people will attend remembrance services in churches, around war memorials – all remembering, millions of people will make the response that we will make 'we will remember



them'. Millions more will watch our Queen as she steadfastly lays a wreath at the Cenotaph. Yes, millions of us will stop and remember those who have gone before us. In times of loss, of darkness and despair we need hope – we look for hope, hope for ourselves and for our loved ones;

the words from John's gospel that we heard surely give us this hope 'I will raise them up on the last day'. This promise from the One who has himself undergone crucifixion, whose flesh has not been torn by shrapnel but by nails, and pierced not with a bullet but the lance, and who has passed through all this to life eternal. Our Remembrance is nothing without this Christian hope, this hope in the word made flesh, the hope 'that neither death nor life... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' It is the gift of hope which sustains us and can look beyond the awfulness of war, to that Kingdom where the Son of Man reigns in glory. This is the hope which alone can begin to make sense of the mystery of suffering; the suffering of the families of those killed in action or as a result of their injuries, those who suffer and bear the wounds of war in body, mind and spirit, in the bereaved and those who mourn – that Christ is present too, hiding in the wounded in the deep shelter of his own wounds. This Sunday we remember that the call to serve in war is a hard call, to which some respond with their lives and, in faith, we remember that Christ is present with the countless dead in war, he accompanies them on their final journey, beyond all time and human imagining, into the fullness of the vision and presence of God. At the altar of God remembrance, suffering and hope meet. Amen

Prayers

HEAVENLY FATHER, we pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict and ask that God may give us peace; for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God. We pray for those whom mourn the loss of loved ones who died as a result of conflict, for those who love them in death as in life. For all members of the armed forces in danger at this time, remembering their families, friends and all who pray for their safe return. For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror and for all who work for peace. We ask you blessing upon all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership – political, military and religious, including our Scottish Episcopal Church, College of Bishop's, Primus Mark and Bishop John, asking for the gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace. And as COP26 draws to a close for leaders of all nations to return home with the resolve to uphold the commitments negotiated in Glasgow.

John 6:37

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

We hold before you all who have asked for our prayers: 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 Marg and Laurie (Heather's sister and brother in law) David Olwa, John Barker, Pat and Jim Bryce, Gordon Dumayne, Anna Lovelock, 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, for George Maes and Tony Oxbrow, for their families 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

GOD GRANT to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the Queen and the Commonwealth and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and all whom you love this day and forevermore.



Notices

This weekend we stop and remember. Up and down the land there will be services of Remembrance in large cathedrals, tiny churches around war memorials large and small. People gathering collectively where ever they are and standing in respectful silence honouring those who have given their lives for the freedom we enjoy today. Further on in the notices are details of our St Columba's and St Peter's Acts of Remembrance. It has occurred to me on a number of occasions over recent months that we living in this time are all fighting a common enemy – COVID 19, may we always remember the sacrifices of so many for our safety and wellbeing over these past 20 months. We are not out of the woods yet so our covid practices continue to keep everyone as safe as we can 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. It is intended to begin offering coffees and teas again after Sunday morning services as is done on a Tuesday. It would be good to have a little 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. Please email or talk to Jane if you would feel able to join the rota and we will have this up and running hopefully by the beginning of Advent and thank you to those who have already offered to man the coffee trolley. Another small but significant step in the life of our church.

Remembrance Sunday — we will be marking the Act of Remembrance @ 11am in both St Columba's and St Peter's. **St Columba's worship will begin with the Act of Remembrance @ 10.55am** and this will be followed by poetry and hymns and then our Eucharist. **St Peter's worship will start at 10am** and conclude with the Act of Remembrance at 11am.

Services for the coming week:

Remembrance Sunday 14th November: St Peter's @ 10.am and St Columba's @ 10.55am.

Tuesday 16th November – St Peter's Midweek Eucharist @ 10.30am

Wednesday 17th November – St Columba's Midweek @ 10.30am

St John's Church Linlithgow have organised a retreat day for ladies on Saturday 13th November "Light of Life ladies retreat day".

A day for you to take some time out of the busyness of life for yourself, to explore how you relate to Advent and what the 'Light of Life' means to and for you. The day will include space for shared reflection, a guided retreat as well as art, sewing and reading materials to help you reflect.

There is no charge, but sign up is requested on the link below for planning purposes.

<https://stjohnslinlithgow.churchsuite.co.uk/events/irgr5ox2>

On **Sunday 14th November** Boghall Church will be hosting a Bathgate Churches evening of music, video, prayers and reflections @ 7pm to mark the close of COP26. All welcome.

St Peter's AGM will be held after worship on Sunday 21st 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 20th November please.

Let's take up the challenge as well as our knitting needles and create these poppies to fill places in our churches with red in remembrance of those who gave and continue to give their lives for us. They will take nothing away from our donations to the poppy fund but rather add a personal touch to either inside or outside St Peter's and St Columba's.

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/thecomcommunicant/>

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

St Peter's Notice - Tony Oxbrow's funeral will take place on Monday 15th November at 11 a.m. at West Lothian Crematorium.

EC 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=ZXpMWndaY210empVY1daL09paGJwZz09>

Meeting ID: 991 1810 8400 Passcode: 143983

For the coming week beginning on Pentecost 25 (Trinity 24). Sunday is Remembrance Sunday. On Tuesday we celebrate Margaret of Scotland, 1093, on Wednesday we celebrate Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop, 1200, on Thursday we celebrate Fergus, Bishop, c.750, On Friday we celebrate Hilda of Whitby, 680

Sunday 14 th	Week B	Job 19:21-27, Psalm 90	1 Corinthians 15:51-57	John 6:37-40
Monday 15 th	Week B	1 Maccabees 3:1-24	Revelation 20:7-15	Matthew 17:1-13
Tuesday 16 th	Week B	1 Maccabees 3:25-41	Revelation 21:1-8	Matthew 17:14-21
Wednesday 17 th	Week B	1 Maccabees 3:42-60	Revelation 21:9-21	Matthew 17:22-27
Thursday 18 th	Week B	1 Maccabees 4:1-25	Revelation 21:22 - 22:5	Matthew 18:1-9
Friday 19 th	Week B	1 Maccabees 4:36-59	Revelation 22:6-13	Matthew 18:10-20
Saturday 20 th	Week B	Isaiah 65:17-25	Revelation 22:14-21	Matthew 18:21-35

The Collect for the week Proper 33 Sunday between 13th November and 19th November.

O Lord, forgive the transgressions of your people: and by your goodness release us from the snare of sin, in which, by our frailty, we have been caught; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen

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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