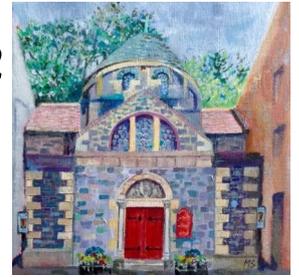




St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow



Rector: Rev Christine Barclay

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16th January 2022
Epiphany 2

DEAR FRIENDS, we continue our journey through this Christmas season. I hope that the readings, prayers and short reflection speak into your hearts as a reminder of the very loving relationship that our God has chosen us to share with him.

Collect

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, ruler of heaven and earth: mercifully hear the prayers of your people, and grant your peace to our times; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Readings

Isaiah 62: 1 - 5
1 Corinthians 12: 1 - 11
John 2: 1 - 11

Reflection

OUR READINGS THIS WEEKEND reflect the nature of our relationship with God as expressed in terms of marriage. Perhaps starting with our experience of the best in human love, we can use this as a measure to imagine the totally loving, totally faithful nature of God. In reality of course, it is the other way round: being made in the likeness of God we share, in part, his capacity for faithfulness and loving which is often expressed in the decision to marry the object of our deep love and affection.

In many cultures there is a symbolic change of name attached to the marriage ceremony to signify that there has been a fundamental life change and that the two are now one. In a similar way God first loves us and chooses us, and then calls us onwards into so changed a life in him that is sometimes referred to as being born again into a new life.

In the passage from Paul's letter to the people of Corinth

he is anxious to make it clear that there is no rigid format for our new life. It is to be a varied and diverse as we are, reflecting the richness of individual gifts. But for all the differences there is a bond of unity, because all of the gifts are expressions of the one Spirit. We can get ourselves unnecessarily worked up about the distribution of such gifts rather than keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, for our individual gifts will be received and valued wherever and however they are expressed.

And the transformation of our lives could not be shown more dramatically than in the Gospel event of the water being turned into wine at the marriage in Cana. The ordinary is turned into the extraordinary through contact with and obedience to the Word of God.

Prayers

LET US PRAY TO OUR LORD, the bountiful giver of love and mercy. Lord of wisdom and discernment we pray for the Church around the world, may we all kneel together in humility, assured only of your mercy and truth. We ask your blessing upon our Scottish Episcopal Church, for our College of Bishops, Primus Mark and Bishop John, and the charges and communities in our diocese. Lord of celebration, take the tap water of



our lives, all that we see as routine and humdrum, and infuse it with your splendour. Take our dullness and our limited vision and raise our eyes instead to the magnificence of your creation. We thank you for all who enrich our churches through their abilities and gifts. Teach us to recognise these gifts in each other, and to encourage one another to offer themselves for the common good. Help us to hear your voice, Lord, calling each of us to the task you would have us



Igor Stoyanov's Icon of the Wedding Feast at Cana in Galilee

undertake. Lord, look with your love on those who are exhausted by emotion or pain, those who do not know which way to turn. Those fleeing the scourge of war, those no longer able to live safely in their homes or communities, those fleeing for a better life in far away places. May they receive shelter, food warmth and welcome.

We pray for those who have asked for our prayers, for Rev Ruth Innes and

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 George Adamson.

From St Peter's, David Olwa, Pat and Jim Bryce, Kathleen Rae (Anne's friend), Cisley Moss, Peter and Marilyn McOwan, Harry and Connie Payne, Rita Manion (David's mother), Annie and Andy Gibbs (Olivia's in-laws), Dot Pringle, Brenda Cook, Father John, Robert Boyter, Ruthie Caddell, David Szkudlarek, Jan Robson, and George Adamson (Rev Christine's friend) and for all their families.

We pray for the souls of those who have died in recent days and for those who mourn their passing, including Adam Scott and we remember with thanksgiving all who have passed through the waters of death and are now in the eternal presence of God.

Lord, as we pray for the departed, we remember with thanks all that they gave to the life of this world. Grant them joy in the everlasting marriage feast of heaven.

We remember those connected with our church families whose anniversaries of death fall this coming week.

From St Columba's: Jimmy Connor, David Matchelt, James Gibson, Mary Wilkie, David Main and Joseph Woodward.

From St Peter's: Gwendoline Joan Goldfinch, Robert Mickel, Jimmy Mickel, Pat Glegg, Jean Pullar Farquhar, Margaret Moir and Robert Hadnum.

Blessing

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.



Notices

The days are beginning to lengthen and soon we will be looking for signs of those brave little snowdrops and aconites poking their heads through the cold soil. I hope that you are all navigating the uncertainties that Covid wreaks on our lives especially for our young children and their education.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Collections for The Aberlour Child Care Trust for St Columba's and Rachel House Scotland for St Peter's. In the next week or so we will let you know how much we raised.

Services this Coming Week

Sunday 16th January – Epiphany 2 – St Peter's Sung Eucharist @ 9.30am and St Columba's Sung Eucharist @ 11.15am.

Monday 17th January – Morning Prayer in St Columba's @ 9am

Tuesday 18th January – St Peter's Midweek Eucharist @ 10.30am

Wednesday 19th January – St Columba's Midweek Eucharist @ 10.30am

Thursday 20th January – Morning Prayer in St Peter's @ 9am

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Bathgate Churches have postponed their services until late February, dates will be advised nearer the time.

Confirmations

On Sunday 6th March, the first Sunday of Lent, Bishop John will be coming to St Columba's for morning worship and to Confirm Jane Ramsay and Colin Harrison. As part of their preparing for this important step on their journeys of faith they will be sharing 4 sessions of 'holy conversations' with me. Because of the covid restrictions these will be on Zoom. They will be held on the next four Monday evenings (17th, 24th, 31st January and 7th February) from 7.30 – 8.30. If anyone would like to join in these sessions, please do let me know, Jane and Colin would welcome others to share in this special time.

Visit to the Bield

On Tuesday 1st March 2022 – the day before Ash Wednesday – it is planned that a happy band of St Columba's and St Peter's folk will find themselves driving through the glories of Perthshire and arriving at Blackruthven House in time for morning coffee and a day of gentle and happy pursuits in and around the grounds of this lovely place. We will have the whole house to ourselves and I know Rev Christine has plans to keep us enthralled during the day or we can choose to wander the grounds, the labyrinth with the chickens, enjoy lunch, afternoon tea and dinner before we depart invigorated in mind and body for our homes once again.

The cost for the whole day is £34.00 and at this time there are no thoughts of the house cancelling bookings but of course Covid will have the final say on this.

There are 21 places available to be shared between both our churches – transport will be organised where necessary and no one should be discouraged by the cost for this – our final little pilgrimage with our Rector Christine. Please get in touch with Jane

Ramsay if you would like to put your name forward to join what I know from past experience will be a beautiful and long-remembered day amongst friends. (jane.ramsay48@gmail.com)

Coffee and Chat will resume on Zoom on Tuesday 18th Jan at 11.30am. I've just set it up for 6 weeks and we'll see how it goes with what's happening. **Jackie Jackson**

Same details as before...

Meeting ID: 511 179 1282

Passcode: 3i1TYq

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=ZXpMWndaY210empVY1daL09paGJwZz09>

Meeting ID: 991 1810 8400 Passcode: 143983

For the coming week beginning on the Second Sunday after Epiphany. On Monday we remember Antony of Egypt, Abbot, 356, on Tuesday we remember The Confession of Peter, on Friday we remember Agnes, Martyr, c.304.

Sunday 16 th	Week B	Isaiah 60:9-22	Galatians 1:11-24	John 1:43-51
Monday 17 th	Week B	Genesis 7:1-10, 17-23	Hebrews 4:14 - 5:6	John 2:23 - 3:15
Tuesday 18 th	Week B	Genesis 8:6-22	Hebrews 5:7-14	John 3:16-21
Wednesday 19 th	Week B	Genesis 9:1-29	Hebrews 6:1-12	John 3:22-36
Thursday 20 th	Week B	Genesis 11:1-9	Hebrews 6:13-20	John 4:1-15
Friday 21 st	Week B	Genesis 11:27 - 13:1	Hebrews 7:1-17	John 4:16-26
Saturday 22 nd	Week B	Genesis 13:2-18	Hebrews 7:18-28	John 4:27-42

The Collect for the week of the Second Sunday after Epiphany

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of heaven and earth: mercifully hear the prayers of your people, and grant your peace to our times; 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.





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