

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER ROGATION SUNDAY

17 May 2020



**Eaglais Easbaigeach na h-Alba san Eilean Dubh
The Scottish Episcopal Church on the Black Isle**

Charity Number SC010781

St Regulus' Cromarty + St John's, Arpafeelie + St Andrew's, Fortrose

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Priest & Rector

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RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE WHO IS BAPTISED IS WELCOME

to share with us in Communion at all services.

There is no need to be a member of the Episcopal Church. Please feel free to celebrate with us.

If you are not baptised or would prefer, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing

(simply come forward with hands together and head bowed as a sign to the priest).

+ + +

**ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Collect of Easter 6

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you riches beyond imagination.

Pour into our hearts such love towards you that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Collect of Rogationtide

Creator of the fruitful earth, you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

+ First Reading : Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

+ Psalm 66:14-18

Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you
what he has done for me.

**Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you
what he has done for me.**

I called out to him with my mouth,
and his praise was on my tongue.
If I had found evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

**Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you
what he has done for me.**

But in truth God has heard me;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld his love from me.

**Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you
what he has done for me.**

+ **Second Reading : 1 Peter 3:13-22**

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gradual Hymn

+ **The Holy Gospel : John 14:15-21**

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who

have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

PRAYER REQUESTS

For hearts overflowing with Easter grace. For grace to be Jesus' hands, feet, voice, eyes & heart in the world...that we all may LIVE and BE the GOOD NEWS.

OUR WORLD

For all suffering with Covid 19, for all our healthcare workers, for all working for a cure, for all shop workers, lorry drivers, all we are depending on for our safety, health and protection and all living in fear of it. For healing and peace among all nations. For an end to terrorism and hatred in all its forms. For our fellow Christians and all who are persecuted for their faith.

OUR COMMUNION

Pray for the peace and unity of the Church. Pray for our sisters & brothers of the Church in Korea : Archbishop Moses Nagjun Yoo.

OUR DIOCESE

For all our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For Valerie C, Rebekah, C, Joshua C, Lisa C, Jackie F, Paul H, Ross J, their families and all who are studying for Ordination or Readership...for their instructors & all who support them. For Mark, our Bishop. For our brothers & sisters of St Andrew's, Tain; St Finnbarr's, Dornoch; St Columba's, Brora & St Maelrubha's, Lairg. For Inverness Street Pastors. For our sister Dioceses (Quebec, Canada & Tuam, Killala and Achonry, Ireland).

OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Pray for all farmers & fishers of the Black Isle and throughout the Highlands as we mark Rogationtide. Pray for all whose weddings and baptisms have had to be postponed. For one another as we live through this challenging time...especially those who are experiencing a profound loneliness. For the good health and safety of all. For Isaac & family. For Mark W & loved ones. For Janet S as she studies for ordination. For those whose relationships / marriages are struggling. Pray for our Granny in Guatemala: Santos De La Cruz Mendez. Pray for our Sunday Club in St Regulus'. For our Teen Gatherings. For James and his work in Biblical translation in Nigeria. For all we know to be in need of our prayers.

A DAILY PRAYER for the WEEK

Let us pray to Christ,
the way, the truth and the life.

– *Son of the living God, bless your people.*

We pray for all the ministers of your Church:
may they be nourished and sustained as they break
for their brothers the bread of life.

– *Son of the living God, bless your people.*

We pray for the whole Christian people: may they
be faithful to their calling and hold fast in bonds of
peace the unity of the spirit.

– *Son of the living God, bless your people.*

We pray for those who govern our country that
they may exercise their office with justice and
compassion; help them to promote the peace of
the world.

– *Son of the living God, bless your people.*

Make us worthy to adore you in the communion of
saints; grant eternal joy to the faithful departed,
whom we entrust to your care.

– *Son of the living God, bless your people.*

*In a moment of silence, call to mind the concerns
of your own heart with those listed above*

and lift them up to God. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

LET US UNITE IN PRAYER FROM OUR HOMES

Dear All,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Well, here we are...Rogation Sunday &
Rogationtide...with Ascension Day on Thursday!
Time flies even when we are locked down in our
homes!

“Rogation” comes from the Latin “*rogare*”
which means “to ask”. As our Lord prepares his
flock for the day when he would ascend to the
right hand of his Father, he tells them that
whatsoever they ask, in his Name they will
receive. He adds, “So ask that you might
receive!”. Trusting in that promise led the Church
over the years to mark Rogationtide by asking
God’s blessing on the fruits of land and
sea...blessing fields, seeds, livestock, boats, nets
and creels...and those who put them all to good
use! We have done this in various ways over the
years here on the Black Isle...blessing Upper
Raddery Farm, for instance, in the name of all our
farms on the Isle...and praying the Litany on
behalf of all. This year will be different, of
course...but the prayers will be prayed. I will
include some prayers in this week’s
newsletter...pray them for your own gardens and
those of your neighbours!

Ascension Day will be duly marked on
Thursday and the recorded Eucharist will be sent,
via email, to one and all.

We continue in lockdown but I am glad to
report, as I phone around, that everyone seems fit
and well! Let’s keep praying for each other and
for all!

ROGATION PRAYERS



*(The photo is described as an Episcopalian Rogation Procession
somewhere in Scotland...location unknown!)*

Ancient Prayers from the Gaelic Tradition

O Valiant Michael of the white steeds
Who subdued the Dragon of blood,
For love of God, for pains of Mary's Son,
Spread thy wing over us, shield us all,
Spread thy wing over us, shield us all.

O Mary beloved! Mother of the White Lamb,
Shield, oh shield us, pure Virgin of nobleness,
And Brigid the beautiful,
shepherdess of the flocks.
Safeguard thou our cattle,
surround us together,
Safeguard thou our cattle,
surround us together.

And Columkille, beneficent, benign,
In name of Father, and of Son, and of Spirit Holy,
Through the Three-in-One, through the Trinity,
Encompass thou ourselves,
shield our procession,
Encompass thou ourselves,
shield our procession.

O Father! O Son! O Spirit Holy!
Be the Triune with us day and night,
On the machair plain or on the mountain ridge
Be the Triune with us
and His arm around our head,
Be the Triune with us
and His arm around our head.

A Rogation Litany

God the Father, creator
of heaven and earth,

Have mercy on us.

God the Son, redeemer of the world,

Have mercy on us.



God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,

Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed,
and glorious Trinity,
three persons and one God,

Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,	Pray for us.
Holy Joseph,	Pray for us.
Holy Michael,	Pray for us.
Holy Andrew,	Pray for us.
Holy John & Holy Regulus,	Pray for us.
Holy Brigid,	Pray for us.
Holy Isidore,	Pray for us.
All you Holy Angels and Saints,	Pray for us.

To all nations grant unity, peace, and concord,
and to all people give dignity, food, and shelter.

Hear us, good Lord.

Grant us abundant harvests, strength and skill to
conserve the resources of the earth, and wisdom to
use them well.

Hear us, good Lord.

For favourable weather, temperate rains, and
fruitful seasons, that there may be food and drink
for all your creatures,

Hear us, good Lord.

For your blessing upon the lands and waters, and
all who work them to bring forth food and all
things needful for your people.

Hear us, good Lord.

For your blessing upon forest and field, seed and
livestock, tools, ploughs and farm vehicles, fishing
boats, nets and creels.

Hear us, good Lord.

For all who care for the earth, the water, and the
air, that the riches of your creation may abound
from age to age,

Hear us, good Lord.

Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Grant us your peace.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Our Father...evil. Amen.

Remember, Lord, your mercy and loving-kindness
towards us. Bless this good earth, and make it
fruitful. Bless our labour, and give us all things
needed for our daily lives. Bless our homes and all
who live within them. Bless our common life and
our care for our neighbour.

All this we ask in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

RE DAILY PRAYER...

FACEBOOK : many have been joining me daily
as I stream the Morning and Evening Offices live
on Facebook from my home...I think we have to
be friends in FB for you to access that but I will
certainly welcome you!

ALSO:

I share, once again, information re how to
join with me in prayer each day during this time...

If you have a tablet, computer or smart
phone you are able to join me. The Offices are
found at :

universalis.com

Look up Office of Readings, Morning Prayer etc
on the site....and even the daily Eucharist readings.

I will be offering these prayers at:

7 am : Invitatory & Office of Readings

9 am : Morning Prayer (Facebook Live Stream)

6 pm : Evening Prayer (Facebook Live Stream)

10 pm : Night Prayer aka Compline

7 pm Eucharist on Tuesdays (Facebook Messenger)

10 am Eucharist on Thursdays (Facebook Messenger)

10 am Eucharist on Sundays (Facebook livestream and
emailed link to all)

It is part of my duty as a priest to pray the
Office and to offer the Mass for you....so that will
not cease! Please join me, if you can, from your
homes for even one of those prayer times.

Also, the Sunday Readings will be
included, like today, in the emailed Newsletter.

PLEASE, let us all do what we can to be safe and
sound....**BUT, let us also do all we can to
support and encourage one another.**

**IN THE MIDST OF
THE CURRENT CRISIS**

**Let's not forget to love
and take care of one another.**

We are a community...a good one...

**Let loving kindness
and generosity**

be our rule...as always!!!

**If you need anything or just a friendly voice,
ring me at 01381 622 241 (or 07780 512
990)...and I will do my utmost!**

SOME HELPFUL PRAYERS...

From our SEC Liturgy Committee...

Intercessions for use during the pandemic
*Words in italics are suggestions, to be used,
adapted, or added to, as necessary.*

We pray to the LORD,
to the God who is our shelter and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.
We pray for our communities:
*for the elderly, confined to their homes and
separated from family and support; for children,
removed from school; for those who have lost
their source of income; for those who fear for their
home; for those who have no home; for those
offering extraordinary, everyday kindness; for ...*
Silent prayer

The LORD of hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Lord, you are in the midst of us:
help us in our time of trouble.

We pray for the young and those in education:
*for those anxious about examinations, a place at
university, or employment; for those worried
about loved ones and friends; for those concerned
about their own health; for...*
Silent prayer

The LORD of hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Lord, you are our refuge and strength:
let us not be afraid, even though the world is
changed.

We pray for key workers:
*for all medical staff and hospital workers, who go
to work knowing the risks they face; for medical
researchers, seeking ways to prevent and to cure;
for social workers, protecting the vulnerable; for
care workers, providing contact and support to
those who have no other help; for teachers,
worrying about their charges; for farmers,
delivery and shop workers, keeping the nation
provisioned; for cleaners, fighting the spread of
infection; for...*
Silent prayer

The LORD of hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Lord, be with us in our time of need:
help us to do what has been asked of us,
and give us grace to help others do what has been
asked of them.]

We pray for the world:
*for the leaders of the nations and their
governments; for areas most besieged by the
pandemic; for broken places where healthcare
and resources are scarce, and the pandemic
brings further suffering; for ...*
Silent prayer

The LORD of hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Lord, may the nations hear your voice:
and know that you are God,
supreme among the nations,
supreme over all the world.
We pray for those who are sick:
*for those afflicted with coronavirus; for those with
other illnesses and conditions which leave them
vulnerable; for those with poor mental health; for
all who suffer; remembering especially ...*
Silent prayer

The LORD of hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Lord, we trust in you, because your love is
constant:
bring us comfort and healing,
for you are always willing to save.

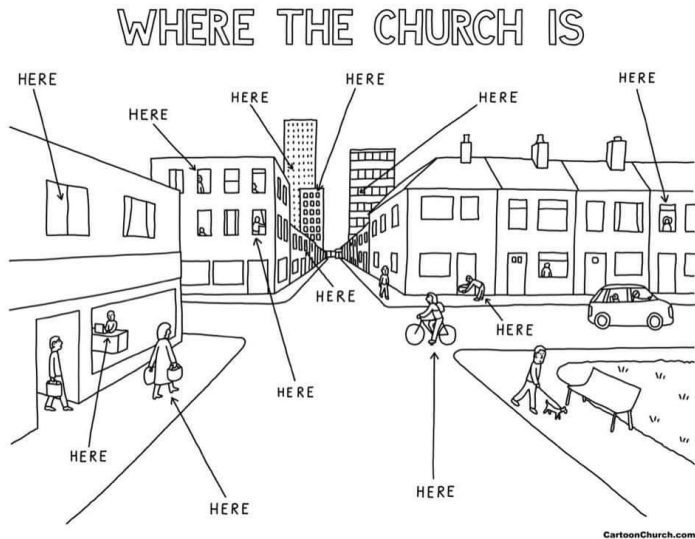
We pray for the Church:
*for our fellow members in the body of Christ
throughout the world; for the Scottish Episcopal
Church; for Mark, our bishop, the College of
bishops, the clergy, lay ministers, and all the
people in their care; for our hospital and hospice
chaplains; for all who minister to the sick and the
dying; for...*
Silent prayer

The LORD of hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Lord, you are in the midst of us:
keep us fearless in proclaiming your Word and
works,
and make us to be lights in the darkness.

We pray for those who have died:
*for those taken suddenly; for those taken
unexpectedly; for the families they leave behind;
for their friends; for those who have died alone;
for ... ; and for those who have no one to
remember them.*
Silent prayer

The LORD of hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Lord, may those who have waited for you
and hoped in your word
know your steadfast love face to face.
We offer up our hopes and fears,
our joys and sorrows
to God, our refuge and strength.
Lord, listen to our prayers,
and hear the voice of our supplications,
as we, who trust in your word,
eagerly await your help:

for you are the God of our salvation.
This we ask through your Son, our Saviour, Jesus
Christ. **Amen.**



SOME PRAYERS FOR USE DURING THE PANDEMIC

God of all mercy and compassion,
life and death are in your hands.

Hear our prayers
in this time of illness and infection,
of isolation, fear, and uncertainty:
for the sick,
and those weighed down by pain, distress,
loneliness, and anxiety;
for all who care for them,
conscious of the risks they bear;
and for those who have responsibility for public
health and social order.
Hear the cry of the afflicted
and let them be comforted,
so that all who suffer may come to know
that they are joined to the sufferings of Christ,
who gave his life for the salvation of the world;
and by your blessing on them
and those who care for them,
may they be restored, according to your will,
to soundness of body and mind,
and offer you joyful thanks in your Church.
Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

God of our Salvation,
you have ordained that we should serve you
in serving one another.
Look upon this nation,
burdened at this time
with many cares and anxieties,
with infection, sickness, and untimely death.

Grant us grace to work together,
with honest and faithful hearts,
each caring for the good of all;
that, striving first for your kingdom
and its righteousness,
we may have added to us all things
that we need for our daily sustenance
and the common good.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
(Based on a prayer of Geoffrey Fisher)

O God, whose love we cannot measure,
nor even number thy blessings:
we bless and praise thee for all thy goodness,
who in our weakness art our strength,
in our darkness, light,
in our sorrows, comfort and peace,
and from everlasting to everlasting art our God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, world without end.
(*Supplement to the Indian Book of Common
Prayer*)

*The doors of the house where the disciples had
met were locked (John 20. 19)*

Ever-present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness
to an emerging world.
For Jesus' sake.
(A prayer by Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark)