

SUNDAY
26th July 2020
Pentecost 8
Charity Number
SC010781

The Scottish Episcopal Church

St John's, Arpafelie: St Andrew's, Fortrose: St Regulus, Cromarty

The Black Isle Family of Congregations

The Rev'd Canon (Father) Mel Langille
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EVERYONE WHO IS BAPTISED is welcome to share with us in Communion this morning. 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).



THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us your mercy,
that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

+ First Reading : 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD - cont.

+ Psalm 119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart. When your word goes forth it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

I open my mouth and pant; I long for your commandments. Turn to me in mercy, as you always do to those who love your Name.

Steady my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me. Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.

Let your countenance shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes. My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.

+ Second Reading : Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

+ The Holy Gospel : Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

PRAYER REQUESTS

For a greater love for our Lord in the Eucharist and for Grace to remember that the Presence of Christ we receive in every Communion must be carried forth into the world and lived in love. 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 places where Covid-19 and other diseases are on the rise. For all in leadership in health care and government and for the Spirit's guidance re the ending of lockdown. 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 the Bishops of the Communion in the light of Lambeth Conference postponement...and for those who are trying to arrange a future date.

OUR DIOCESE

For all our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For Pauline J, Claire N, Colin P, Lesley P, Roberta R, Louise S, Philip S, 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 Margaret's, Aberlour. For Inverness Street Pastors. For our sister Dioceses (Quebec, Canada & Tuam, Killala and Achonry, Ireland).

OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY FAMILY & FRIENDS

Pray for our Vestry as we discuss relaxing lockdown measures within our three churches. 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

In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying,
We pray for all who confess the name of Christ: fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

We pray for those whose lives are bound in mutual love, and for those who live in celibacy: be their joy and their strength.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all in danger, for those who are far from home, prisoners, exiles, refugees, victims of oppression: grant them your salvation.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all who are facing trials and difficulties, for those who are sick, and those who are dying: show them your kindness and mercy.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

We pray for one another: may we always be united in service and love.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

We pray to be forgiven our sins and set free from all hardship, distress, want, war, and injustice.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

May we discover new and just ways of sharing the goods of the earth, struggling against exploitation, greed, or lack of concern: may we all live by the abundance of your mercies and find joy together.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

As we remember our departed loved one and all who have died, we be strengthened by our communion with all Christ's saints.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

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.

AS THE CHURCH DEPLOYED - LET US UNITE IN PRAYER FROM OUR HOMES

Dear All,

The Vestry met via Zoom on Tuesday past and were united in concern for our people. We have begun to put things in place for the re-opening of our churches but it is a way off just yet.

Several felt that because of their own health they would not be able to be present...Others felt that many would feel very anxious about possibly contracting the virus and would not be able to enter, truly, into worship.

The idea of assigned seats, signing in, no singing, and a whole list of other temporary changes were discussed.

Concerns were raised concerning the influx of tourists as well. (I have to say that on Tuesday afternoon within a 2 hour period, I counted 28 campervans heading down Academy Street and I have been told of hundreds more parked in laybys, etc.) I confess I went to the big retail park to do a shop and when I saw the numbers milling about, I could not bring myself to get out of the car! Your Vestry plans to meet again in 2 weeks to see how preparations are going and how we feel. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS**, do not hesitate to message myself, Ramsay, or any of our Vestry persons!

OPEN GARDEN AT CULISH

Gill Pimm has graciously opened her amazing Garden for the month of July....11am – 4pm...donations most welcome and to benefit Marie Curie Cancer Charity. Honey, Jams, Plants and much more. Not to mention a friendly hello from the hostess with the moistest.

Foodbank donations have very much slowed down over the past couple of weeks...please remember that the need is still very much there.

Much love to all!

Mel +



PREPARATION for OPENING the THREE CHURCHES

Before we can open up the churches, each one will require to undergo a full deep clean. This process will require to be carried out after each service. This of course will require a number of volunteers in each Congregation to carry out the process. Such cleaning is much more than we would normally do and training will be provided. Would anyone willing to assist as a volunteer please get in touch with me in order that I can make all necessary arrangements.

Ramsay McGhee

Vestry Secretary

w.r.mcghee@btinternet.com

From the Vestry Secretary

When we do reopen our churches, things will be significantly different from what we are used to. As the Government guidelines stand at the present time, two metre distancing will be mandatory. That means, for example, that we will only be able to facilitate a total of 18 people at any service in St Andrew's. I have still to measure the other two churches.

On entering the church your temperature will be taken digitally by a steward and you will require to sanitise your hands. A second steward will note your details and telephone number. A third steward will then take you to one of the designated seats. You will require to remain in the seat until directed to do otherwise by the Rector or Stewards. Unless a family group, only two people will be allowed in each pew - one at either end.

There will be no handouts as you enter the church and all pew bibles, cushions and kneelers will be removed.

There will be no singing and there will be no physical contact during the peace.

At Communion, everyone will be asked to wait in their pews until the two from the seat in front have taken communion and returned. As folk approach the Altar, they will use hand sanitiser which will be placed in front of the Altar. No wine will be taken other than by the Rector.

At the conclusion of the service there will be no hospitality – stewards will direct people out one pew at a time. Once the church has been cleared, all areas where people were sitting will require to be cleaned and sanitised. Toilet facilities will be out of bounds.

If you wish to view the Church reopening video the link is -

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/phase-3-guidance-video/>

If you have any questions regarding the procedures please do not hesitate to contact me.

For those who wish to attend a service, St Michael and All Angels in Abban Street will resume services on 26th July but numbers will be restricted. The Cathedral will also be opening in August and again numbers will be restricted. Further details will be posted when I have them to hand.

Ramsay McGhee

Vestry Secretary

Gill Pimm's GARDEN OPEN

Culish, Kilmuir
North Kessock, IV1 3ZG



**Daily throughout July
11am till 4pm**

**donations most
welcome**



**Raising funds for
Marie Curie**

OUR CHARITY SHOP
in Saint Andrew's Hall :
Wednesdays & Saturdays,
10am -1pm.



Please help local people in Crisis

Tins of ham

Tins of corned beef

Tins of mince/stew

Tins of Potato

Tins of custard

Soap powder (small)

Washing up liquid (small)

Shaving foam/razors

TINNED VEGETABLES

Highland Foodbank

Thought for today

Do not fret and worry over things you cannot change.

What's the use of beating at a wall?

Accept the things that have to be with humour and philosophy.

For worrying will do no good at all.

**SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS AND CHARITY SHOP
BOTH CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

BOOKS

by Elizabeth Sutherland

A wide selection of books written by our own Betty Marshall are available at the back of the Church.

- donations should be placed in the box on the back pew.

CARDS –

by Hayden Jeffery

Hayden Jeffery has designed and produced a selection of multifunctional cards - they can be found at the back of the Church and cost £1 each

- donations should be placed in the box on the back pew.

St John's Arpafeelie

Sunday 19th July -

SERVICE CANCELLED

HYMNS



Diocesan Prayer Cycle -

Porvoo Cycle -

Notices

Church Rotas

St Andrew's

Readers & Intercessors

Sides-men

Servers

Sacristan

Flowers

Teas

Cleaning

St John's