

**20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY after PENTECOST**  
**15<sup>th</sup> October 2023**



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

Charity Number SC010781

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

The Most Rev'd Mark Strange,

Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness

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**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**Collect**

Almighty God, in our baptism you adopted us for your own. Quicken, we pray, your Spirit within us, that we being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you, O Father and Holy Spirit, one God for ever & ever.

**St Regulus**

**+FIRST READING: Isaiah 25,1-9**

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore, strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death

forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

This is the Word of the Lord

**+PSALM 23**

I shall fear no evil; for you are with me. Alleluia!

**I shall fear no evil; for you are with me. Alleluia!**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

**I shall fear no evil; for you are with me. Alleluia!**

He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

**I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; Alleluia!**

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**I shall fear no evil; for you are with me. Alleluia!**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**I shall fear no evil; for you are with me. Alleluia!**

**+SECOND READING: Philippians 4, 1-9**

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. <sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

This is the Word of the Lord

**+Gospel: Matthew 22, 1-14**

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He

sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again, he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

### St Andrew's & St John's

#### **+FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 28, 1-14**

If you will only obey the Lord your God, by diligently observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth; all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the Lord your God:

Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.

Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your ground, and the fruit of your livestock, both the increase of your cattle and the issue of your flock.

Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading-bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. The Lord will command the blessing upon you in your barns, and in all that you undertake; he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. All the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. The Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your ground in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give you. The Lord will open for you his rich storehouse, the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season

and to bless all your undertakings. You will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow. The Lord will make you the head, and not the tail; you shall be only at the top, and not at the bottom—if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today, by diligently observing them, and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I am commanding you today, either to the right or to the left, following other gods to serve them.

This is the Word of the Lord

#### **+Psalm: 65**

Be joyful in God, all the earth

#### **Be joyful in God, all the earth**

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed, O you who answer prayer!

To you all flesh shall come.

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.

#### **Be joyful in God, all the earth**

Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

#### **Be joyful in God, all the earth.**

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

#### **Be joyful in God, all the earth**

You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

#### **Be joyful in God, all the earth**

You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

#### **Be joyful in God, all the earth**

You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

#### **Be joyful in God, all the earth.**

#### **+ SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 9, 6-15**

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of

everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,  
‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;  
his righteousness endures for ever.’  
He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry, you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.  
This is the Word of the Lord.

**+Gospel: Luke 12, 16-30**

Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’  
He said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (16-21)**

**MON:**

**TUE: 7:00pm Eucharist in St Regulus’**

**WED: 9:00am Celtic Morning Prayer via Zoom (to join please contact [annegilliannevman@gmail.com](mailto:annegilliannevman@gmail.com))**

10:00am Charity Shop

10:00am Bible Study Group

**THU: 10:00am Eucharist in St Andrew’s**

**FRI:**

**SAT: 10:00am Charity Shop**

**Sunday 22nd October 2023**

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

**9:45am in St Regulus’ with Rev Christine**

**9:45am in St John’s with Fr Arthur**

**11:30 in St Andrew’s with Fr Arthur**

(Readings: Is 45, 1-7; Ps 96, 1-9; 1Th 1, 1-10; Mt 22, 15-22)

**HARVEST FESTIVAL FOOD BANK APPEAL**

Harvest Festival will be celebrated at St Andrew’s & St John’s on Sunday, and we will be making a special collection for the Highland Foodbank. The team at Blythwood are particularly requesting the following:

Tins of potatoes, UHT semi-skimmed milk, Jars of pasta sauce, Tins of chopped tomatoes, Oatcakes/crackers, Tins of ham/corned beef, Tins of fruit, Tins of mince, Tins of carrots, Washing up liquid, Deodorant, Toilet rolls.

Many thanks.



**HOLY DAYS THIS WEEK**

**St Ignatius of Antioch**

**(17<sup>th</sup> Oct)**

also known as Ignatius Theophorus (Greek “God bearer”)



Icon of St. Ignatius from Pushkin Museum, Moscow.

Little is known about St Ignatius of Antioch apart from letters he wrote to 7 churches, on his way to his death in Rome where he was condemned to be killed by wild beasts in the arena, for his faith in Christ Jesus, and following the persecution of the Church in Antioch where he was the bishop. Tradition places the martyrdom of Ignatius as taking place during the reign of Emperor Trajan (98-117 AD).

His letters show deep knowledge of the Scriptures and in many respects echo those of the Apostle Paul.

*“Now the more anyone sees the bishop keeping silence, the more ought he to revere him. For we ought to receive everyone whom the Master of the house sends to be over His household, as we would do Him that sent him. It is manifest, therefore, that we should look upon the bishop even as we would upon the Lord Himself. And indeed, Onesimus himself greatly commends your good order in God, that ye all live according to the truth, and that no sect has any dwelling-place among you. Nor, indeed, do ye hearken to any one rather than to Jesus Christ speaking in truth.”* (letter to the Ephesians)

He wrote epistles to the Ephesians, the Magnesians, the Trallians, the Romans, the Philadelphians, the Smyrnaeans, and to Polycarp. They give wonderful insight into the early church at the beginning of the second century AD and the continuing of the doctrine of the apostles against, in Ignatius’ case, the teachings of the Judaizers and the docetists.

Ignatius longed for this death that he might truly be a disciple of Jesus “who gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God”. (Ephesians 5:2)

He did not “love his life so much as to shrink from dying to it” (Revelation 12:11)

Such ones the Scripture says overcome the devil, “the accuser of the brethren”. (Revelation 12:10)

They are precious in God’s sight. (Psalm 116:15)

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death” (Philippians 3:10)

## **JOINT PRAYER MEETING FOR THE BLACK ISLE CHARGE**



The next prayer meeting will be on 6<sup>th</sup> November at Rev Christine’s house in Fortrose.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

For grace to be Jesus’ hands, feet, voice, eyes, and heart in the world...that we may all LIVE and Be the GOOD NEWS.

## **OUR WORLD**

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. For all those affected by the recent actions in Israel & Gaza and particularly for those in Afghanistan who

have suffered in the terrible earthquake which has not been so widely reported.

## **OUR COMMUNION**

Pray for the peace and unity of the Church. Pray for our sisters and brothers of The Anglican Church of Kenya.

## **OUR DIOCESE**

For our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For all who are studying for Ordination or Readership. For their instructors & all who support them. For Mark, our Bishop, and all priests, lay readers and Eucharistic Ministers, helping to maintain our cycle of worship during the interregnum. For the congregation of St. Ninian, Invergordon: John Cuthbert. For our sister Dioceses of Québec, Canada & Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe, Ireland.

## **OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY FAMILY & FRIENDS**

For our three congregations, those who can join us in public worship and those joining us in spirit at home. For our local farmers as they struggle against the elements at this crucial harvest time. For the Eilean Dubh care home & all care homes and for our church members who are living in them. For Laura S, Stuart T & all studying for ordination & readership. For Igor, Oleksii & Families. For all who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. Pray for our Granny in Guatemala: Santos De La Cruz Mendez. For all we know to be in need of our prayers.

## **A DAILY PRAYER for the WEEK**

*Spend a moment in silence and call to mind any particular concerns... then pray:*

The will of Christ is for us all to be saved. Let us pray that this will be done.

- ***Draw all people to yourself, Lord.***

Lord, by your sacrifice on the cross you redeemed us from the slavery of sin: lead us to the freedom and glory of the sons and daughters of God.

- ***Draw all people to yourself, Lord.***

Be with our bishop Mark, and all the bishops of your church: grant them courage and compassion in their ministry.

- ***Draw all people to yourself, Lord.***

Help those who seek the truth to find it: let them be consecrated in truth.

- ***Draw all people to yourself, Lord.***

We pray especially for peace in family life, and for those orphaned and widowed: Comfort them in your love.

- ***Draw all people to yourself, Lord.***

May our departed brothers and sisters come to the heavenly city: there, with the Father and the Holy Spirit you will reign forever.

- ***Draw all people to yourself, Lord.***

*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.*

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE CHARGE**

*As we are currently in the interregnum, I hope to maintain this part of the newsletter by asking for occasional contributions from people in the different churches and from our Interim Rector, +Mark.*

*As a joint Charge it would be nice to get the news from around the patch but of course that is up to invited contributors delivering something for the relevant week's newsletter.*

*And please do read the newsletter. There is a lot of information in here and it is our main means of communication across the Charge for those signed up.*

*If you want to receive the newsletter regularly by email and currently do not do so, please contact Isla Cruden ([isla@ricruden.net](mailto:isla@ricruden.net)) who will arrange to add you to the circulation list. Or you can bookmark it online at <https://episcopalblackisle.scot>*

*A reminder to get any information you want in the newsletter to me by email by noon on Tuesday.*

*For the FB page. Information about St Regulus' activities should go to Stuart Thomson, St Andrew's, to Alison Garraway & St John's to me.*

*Jean ([jeanmedavis@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmedavis@gmail.com))*

If anyone is housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion or simply a visit, please contact a member of the Ministry team of your local church who will be happy to arrange.

If you want a particular person mentioned here in our prayers, please let me know & I will add them for the remainder of that calendar month.

## **THIS WEEK'S NEWS FROM AROUND THE CHARGE**

### **Firstly:- News From St Andrew's**

Today, Sunday, we welcomed +Mark and Jane. He spoke of how vitally important it is to love and care for God's amazing Creation - and for each other. We may not be able to change leaders, governments, solve all the world's ills but, through sharing our knowledge of God's love we can make a difference. Following the service, he told us he was aware of how we felt facing what might be a lengthy interregnum. He confirmed what he had said in his message - in times of crisis - we can use the telephone number 01463 811333 - the Diocesan Office number - where messages are checked and dealt with, and he will ultimately receive them.

We are blessed in the Diocese to have retired priests willing to step in for services, not least our incredibly supportive Rev. Christine and, of course +Mark himself. We also have Lay reader Barrie and several eucharistic ministers, some newly trained and licensed, some old! Hopefully between us all in the Black Isle Charge we shall continue to share services, home communions and hospital visits, alongside study and prayer groups, service to the wider community and connections to other denominations.

Rev Christine is unwell at present so last Thursday (the first in the month) at her request Alison and Joan took the scheduled service of Healing, with the Reserved Sacrament, sharing the duties.

We sincerely hope that Rev. Christine is thoroughly recovered for the 15th of October when she will be with us for Harvest Festival. She is in all our prayers. We are looking forward to her sermon!

**Joan**

### **Secondly: - A timely contribution from Lay Reader Barrie.**

What a weekend we have just had! While we have been battered by rain and flood (and a wee bit of wind), in the south it is a balmy 25C. Talk about a north / south divide! And in fields across Scotland, late harvesting crops lie inundated and unharvested. Farmers are feeling the pinch, and it will inevitably lead to changes in our supplies of vegetables that we take so much for granted. In this season of giving thanks for the harvest, this is a reminder of what we are truly thankful for. But when it goes badly, we can get annoyed, frustrated, angry even, with a God that can seem so distant. God also seems distant from the strife and violence across the world. The holy land has erupted and war in Ukraine lumbers on with the only inevitability being the suffering of all caught up in it. How can we pray to a God that seems distant and difficult to sense.

This is not new. In the reading from Exodus, we hear the story of the Golden Calf. Where is YHWH? Where is Moses? We need something visible and tangible, and we need it now! We know that it was only the intercessions of Moses that saved the Israelites from the wrath of God because they didn't believe. And we need to have fortitude and faith when we too wonder where God is in the midst of weather chaos and war. We are promised that the Holy Spirit is with us, even though we can't taste, touch, or smell it. So, let's not be tempted by our own version of the Golden Calf and worship 'other gods'. When this seems hard to fathom then follow the instructions to the Philippians, "Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you".

Peace be with you.

**Barrie**

### **OPERATION SHOEBOX – UPDATE**

Dates for the diary. The next Filling Stations will be October 27<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>. More information to follow nearer the dates.

**Jan**

### **Jesus grew in WISDOM and in stature and in favour with God and people. (Luke 2:52)**

Jesus says: The wise man built his house upon the rock.

What is the rock? Jesus says believing his words, and doing as he commands are the rock to build your life on. (Matthew 7:24)

His final command in the gospel of Matthew to his disciples was to “Go”- for every disciple is one sent - to “teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you”. (Matthew 28:19-20)

The Church of Scotland has embraced a simple method of going as one sent.

It is to pray every morning: “Lord show me someone as I go through the day who I should speak to” and then when you are aware of who that person is by the Holy Spirit’s prompting, simply ask the question: “How are you?” Show by your voice and quietness, of your readiness to listen, that it is a genuine question. Then be prepared to give time and attention to listen to them. An opportunity to give God’s comfort, teaching, guidance, prayer as the Spirit leads will arise as we listen. (see Acts 8:26-40)

NB We need to know God’s Word to do God’s work: read it and meditate on it (consider it deeply and pray as we read) day and night. (Psalm 1) In the blessing that comes, we can minister.

***Sally Ann***