

## DECEMBER

### Sun 29 Nov – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE

<sup>17</sup>*Even though* (the pandemic continues, businesses fail, debt spirals...)  
*even though* (the church & Presbyteries struggle to re-form & reform ...),  
*even though* (the Brexit process limps onward & fear & frustration mount)

<sup>18</sup> **I will STILL be joyful and glad,  
because the LORD God is my saviour.**

<sup>19</sup> **The Sovereign LORD gives me strength...** Habakkuk

**Sun 6 Dec – PEACE** – Heavenly Father, come to all who are in mental, emotional or spiritual distress because of loss of whatever kind, because of illness, because of fears and worries about themselves or their loved ones, because of doubt about your existence or your goodness and care....May they hear your loving offer and receive your gift, **“MY PEACE I give to you...”**

### Sun 13 Dec – JOY (Adapted from *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories*)

As the shepherds kept guard, warming themselves at their fire, they told stories to while away the time. Suddenly the night sky was a blaze of light and the glorious shining figure of an angel bent over them. They were terrified but the angel said, “Don't be frightened. I have come with Good News for you. **It will bring JOY TO THE WHOLE WORLD.** This very day a baby was born in Bethlehem. He is Christ the Lord! Go and see him for yourselves. You will find him tightly wrapped and lying in a manger”.

At once the whole sky came alive with angels and the air was filled with their singing. They poured out a hymn of praise and thankfulness to God.

### Sun 20 Dec 🎵 Tell me the old, old story of Jesus and his LOVE 🎵

Slowly the sky sank back into darkness and silence. The shepherds were scarcely able to believe what they had seen. “Come on, let's go and find out if it's true!” They raced across the fields and when they found Mary & Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger, they fell on their knees and worshipped him.

**Friday 25 Dec**

**Welcome, Lord Jesus, thank you so much for coming, full of grace and truth  
HAPPY CHRIST-MAS to each and every one!**

### Sun 27 Dec **I pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will bless you and be kind to you!**

**May God bless you with his love and may the Holy Spirit join all our hearts together.**

The 'Grace' - 2 Corinthians 13: 13 CEV (Contemporary English Version)

# PRESBYTERY OF MORAY PRAYER DIARY October - December 2020

*It was good for me to be afflicted. Psalm 119: 71*

*It is a remarkable occurrence of nature that the most brilliant colours of plants are found on the highest mountains, in places that are most exposed to the fiercest weather... Isn't it the same with a Christian who is afflicted, storm-tossed and without comfort? Until the storms and difficulties allowed by God's providence beat upon a believer again and again, their character appears flawed and blurred. Yet the trials actually clear away the clouds and shadows, perfect the form of their character, and bestow brightness and blessing to their lives.*



[Streams in the Desert Calendar - 1 Oct]

*... the testing of your faith produces **perseverance**. Let **perseverance** finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

James 1:3

**May the Lord** (continue to) **direct our hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.** 2 Thessalonians 3:5

Thu 24 Sep – We rejoice in the arrival of **Rev Wiekus** (pronounced Veekoos) **van Straaten** to begin his ministry at Keith St Rufus, Botriphnie & Grange. May any language barriers be swiftly overcome with mutual grace and laughter and much fruit grown for your glory.



## OCTOBER

**Fri 2/ Sat 3** – Virtual meeting of **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**.

*Lord of the Church, we praise you for the technical expertise & gifts of your Spirit being used to organise and run these 2 days of business. Grant Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, Principal Clerk, Rev George Whyte and all commissioners such a sense of your Presence, guidance and wisdom that there will be deep awe and joy because it is so real and timely. Bless Moray's Commissioners with concentration, stamina and gremlin-free participation!*

**Sun 4 – Mortlach & Cabrach** – *Father, we thank you for the perseverance of this congregation and its faithful Int Mod, George Rollo. We rejoice in the arrival of Rev Eduard Enslin this week after some 6 years of vacancy. May the on-line celebration fill every heart with hope and joy and may Eduard & his family settle quickly into their new surroundings and culture and bear fruit for your glory.*

**Thu 8 Oct** – ‘Zoom’ Induction Service for **Rev Eduard Enslin**

**Sun 11 - St Andrew's Lhanbryd & Urquhart** & Int Mod **Ann Bowie**

Give thanks for the live-streaming of Sunday services and the variety of those conducting them; for the DVDs and CDs made and circulated so that those without computers can join in the worship in other ways and times

**12 - 16** *Gracious God, give grace and perseverance to Ann and Kirk Session (Clerk: Alastair Rossetter) & congregation as they press on in their search for a minister. Thank you for all the gifts, talents & pastoral care being shown and used in your service in the meantime. Pray for Reader-in-Training, Dr Grant Cumming, currently on placement with Rev Bob Anderson.*

**Sun 18 – Aberlour** Int Mod Rev **Geoff McKee; Locum – Rev Morris Smith**  
**Geoff is also Moderator of Presbytery** this year and Morris is also Convenor of Business Committee. *Thank you for some rest and respite is on its way...!*

**Thu 22 – Ordination and Induction of Andrew Kimmitt.**  
*Protect & guide Andrew's ministry as he starts out in this strange time.*

**Sun 25 – Alves & Burghead l/w Kinloss & Findhorn** Int Mod Rev **John Morrison OLM**

**26 – 31** John Craw DCS Rtd from Nairn was to be helping out as Locum. *Father, bless him, Int Mod, and Session Clerks, Ian Rae and Corinne Davies, their deputies and congregations as they worship you and trust you to provide for them. Remember presbytery Elders, Doreen Mackenzie and Bob Malin and Elected Elder Helen More. May all know joy in serving you, and their faith & civic communities.*

## NOVEMBER

**Sun 1 – Bellie & Speymouth** Rev **Seòras Orr**

**2 – 7** Give thanks for weekly video reflections on Church's Facebook page, for Hamish the Coo's lessons for little ones (& older!), and Weekly Newsletter produced by Session Clerk, John McConnachie, to keep as many as possible encouraged and informed.

Pray for Presbytery Elder, **Janet Whyte, who is also Moray's Presbytery Clerk** and doing sterling work at many different levels. *Lord, thank you for Janet's calm ways, and growing technical expertise in Presbytery & other 'zooms'!*



**Sun 8 - Remembrance Sunday**

Parades & acts of remembrance may be very different this year. *Mighty God of peace and justice, Be with all Chaplains and Christians in the forces, particularly those serving at RAF Lossiemouth and 39 RE, Kinloss. Bless Sqn Ldr Rev Sheila Munro with your health and strength.*

**Sun 15 – Birnie & Pluscarden l/w Elgin High** Int Mod Rev **Jenny Adams;**  
**MDS Paula Baker; Locum Rev Sonia Palmer OLM**

**16 – 21** *O God, bless the leadership team as they cope with multi-faceted responsibilities within the fledgling Elgin Hub, caring for congregations in town & country, supervising students (Jenny- David Sim & Sonia- Anne-Marie Simpson) and Jenny convening Presbytery Planning Committee and involved with Presbytery Reform meetings We pray for your priorities, grace-filled relationships, wisdom and strength day by day, for them and the Kirk Sessions.*

**Sun 22 – Buckie North l/w Rathven** Int Mod Rev **Douglas Stevenson; Locum**  
**Mr Murray Campbell**

**23 – 28** *Eternal Lord of seaside towns and country villages, protect those who have returned to worship in their sanctuaries. May their faith be strengthened and care taken to include any who are as yet unable to return. Bless Session Clerks, Presbytery and elected elders, Kathryn Cowie, Jean Forbes (Buckie North) and Ann Grant, Diane Simpson & Barbara Smith (Rathven) in all their service*

**Sun 29 – Buckie South & West l/w Enzie** Rev **Wes Brandon**

**30 Nov – 5 Dec** *Dear Father, Grant vision, hope and daily strength to those in leadership (Alma Blackhall, Janice Dawson, Gladys Murray) as they pray and plan for the future, especially in Enzie. Guide them by your Spirit. Bless & bring forth a harvest from the 1<sup>st</sup> Buckie Bn of the Boys' Brigade for your Kingdom.*