

**Sheku Bayoh RIP Fife  
George Floyd RIP Minneapolis  
To the people of this Diocese  
Your lives matter  
The bible tells us so!**

Are we to believe  
that God is a choosing God  
who chooses some  
to be above the law  
and others  
to be beneath contempt?

Are we to believe  
that God is a choosing God  
who chooses  
that some lives matter more than others  
on the basis of race or creed or colour  
on the basis of gender identity  
or sexual orientation?

Are we to believe  
that God is a choosing God  
who chooses that the richest 1%  
should own half the worlds wealth?

Are we to believe  
that God is a choosing God  
who chooses that God's church  
and only part of it at that  
contains all of the truth?

Are we to believe  
that God is a choosing God  
who chooses on the basis of economical robustness  
which 'marks of mission'  
are still valid when things get tough?

Are we to believe  
that God is a choosing God  
who chooses that some skills  
are more valuable than others  
and some ministries  
are more important than others?

Are we to believe  
that God is a choosing God  
who chooses out of God's triune nature  
sometimes to be creator  
sometimes to be redeemer  
sometimes to be sustainer?

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

YES!  
GOD IS A CHOOSING GOD  
CHOOSING TO STAND  
AND TO LIE DOWN  
WITH ALL WHO ARE OPPRESSED  
BY THE INJUSTICE IN OUR WORLD

CHOOSING TO SIT AT TABLE  
WITH ALL THOSE CONSIDERED EXPENDABLE

CHOOSING TO AMPLIFY THE VOICES  
OF THOSE WHO ARE SILENCED  
BY AUTHORITY  
BE IT GOVERNMENT OR STATE OR CHURCH

CHOOSING TO EXERT A WHOLE OTHER ECONOMY  
THE TRIUNE GOD

CREATOR, REDEEMER, SUSTAINER

STANDS WITH THE POWERLESS  
WEEPS WITH THE HELPLESS  
AND CRADLES  
IN NAIL TORN HANDS  
EVERY DELICATE  
PRECIOUS  
GOD BREATHED LIFE  
THROWING THE VULNERABILITY OF GOD  
INTO THE RING OF HUMANKIND  
IN ALL ITS BEAUTY AND BRUTALITY.

YES!  
GOD  
CREATOR  
REDEEMER  
SUSTAINER  
IS A CHOOSING GOD.

On St Columba's Day (9 June), the monks of Inchcolm Abbey (the Iona of the East) sang these words from the 13<sup>th</sup> century Inchcolm Antiphoner at Matins.

The Priory's precarious location and the constant danger from English pirates is reflected in some of the prayers for protection which feature in the festal Office.



*Pater Columba decus morum ..*

Father Columba,  
glory of our national tradition,  
receive the prayers of your servants,  
save this choir that is praising you  
from attack by the English  
and assault by rivals.

*Os mutorum lux cecorum ...*

Mouth of the dumb,  
light of the blind,  
foot of the lame,  
stretch out a hand to the fallen;  
strengthen the unreliable  
and correct the mad.  
O Columba, hope of Scots,  
by the intervention of your kindness,  
make us colleagues of the blessed angels.  
Alleluia.

*O Columba insignis signifer,*

O Columba,  
distinguished standard-bearer,  
cleanse our minds  
lest the deceiving destroyer  
injure your servants with danger  
from the sea,  
that it may please those around you to  
sing.

To you before others  
It is fitting that voices of joy be closest.  
Lend an ear!

O Columba, Spes Scotorum!  
O Columba, Hope of the Scots!

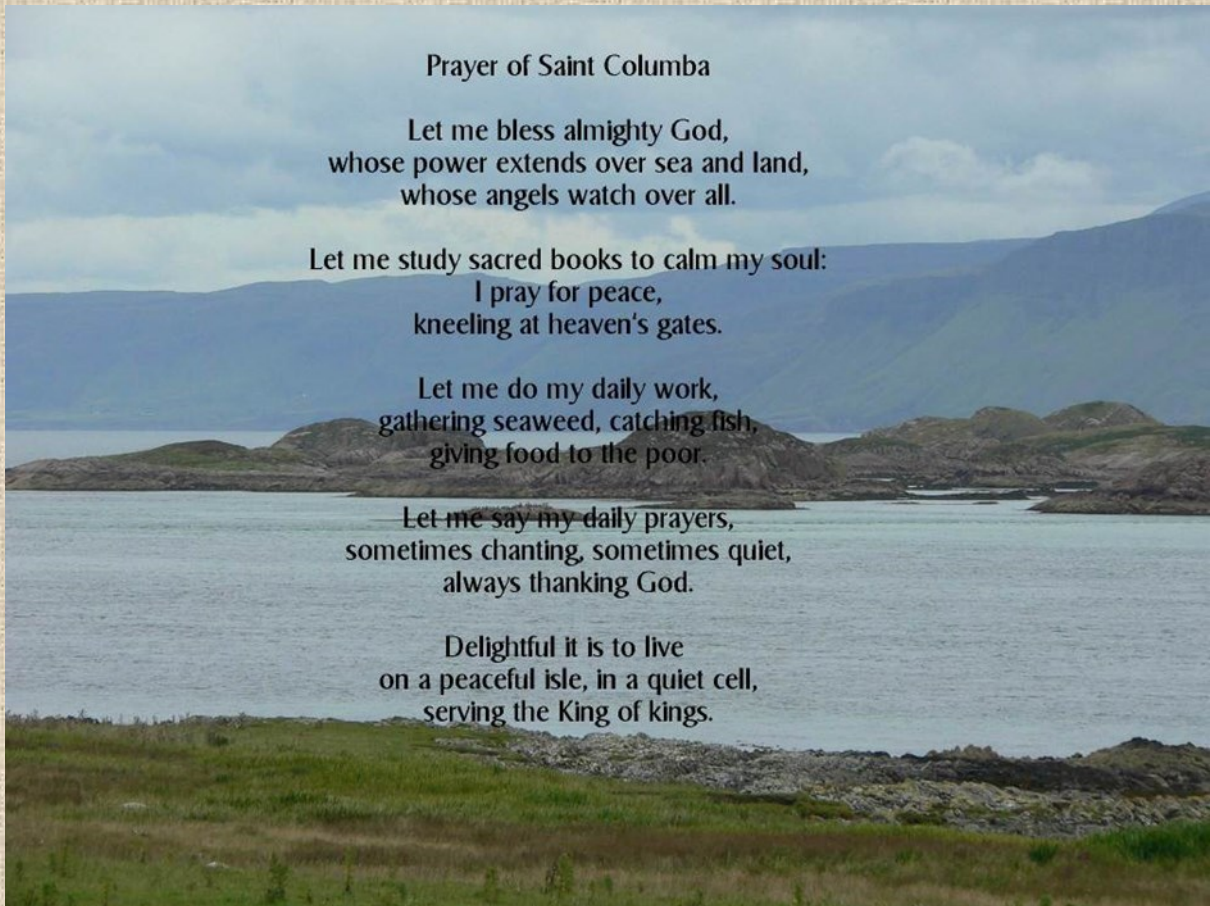
Happy Patronal Feast to all in  
St Columba's, Aberdour, Crieff & Stanley



**St Columba of Iona**  
**Feast day 9<sup>th</sup> June**

**RESOURCING OURSELVES  
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Prayer of Saint Columba

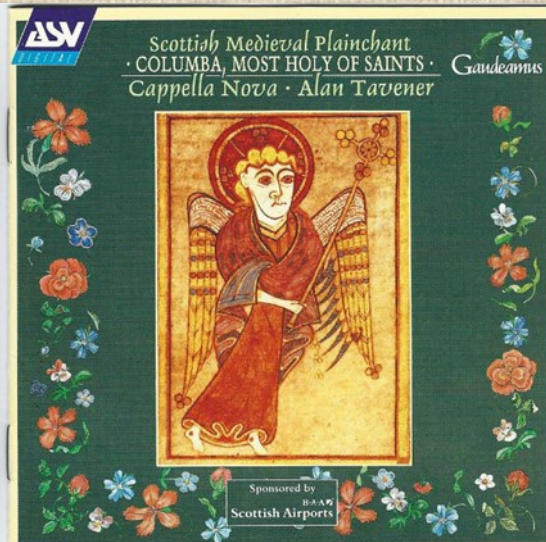
Let me bless almighty God,  
whose power extends over sea and land,  
whose angels watch over all.

Let me study sacred books to calm my soul:  
I pray for peace,  
kneeling at heaven's gates.

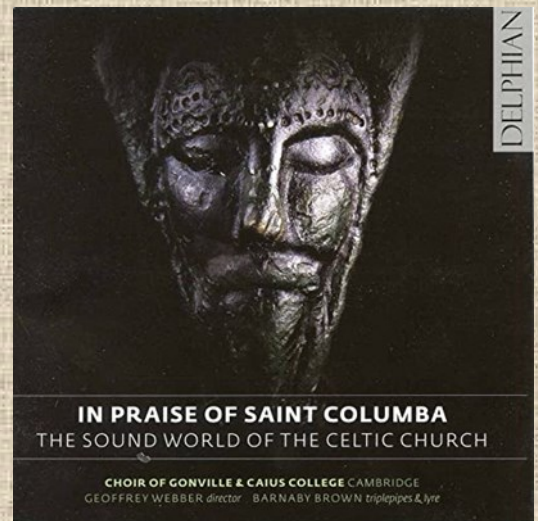
Let me do my daily work,  
gathering seaweed, catching fish,  
giving food to the poor.

Let me say my daily prayers,  
sometimes chanting, sometimes quiet,  
always thanking God.

Delightful it is to live  
on a peaceful isle, in a quiet cell,  
serving the King of kings.



You can hear the Office for St Columba from the Inchcolm Antiphoner sung by Capella Nova, on the CD Columba, Most Holy of Saints - Scottish Medieval Plainchant, directed by Alan Tavener. ASV Gaudemus CD GAU 129



**In Praise of Saint Columba: The Sound World of the Celtic Church** recorded by the Choir of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge in 2014. Also includes excerpts from the Inchcolm Antiphoner.



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Issue 12, 10th June 2020

## Around the Diocese



**The Rev'd Canon Dr Alasdair Coles**, All Saints St Andrews writes: 'Those who sing, pray twice.' That saying has long been attributed to St Augustine of Hippo. I've never found a text of him writing or saying anything like it, although it's a very good maxim, even with COVID around.

Specific scientific research conducted since the COVID outbreak on the physics of singing and playing wind instruments shows that there is no additional propensity of spreading infection through the act of singing or playing a wind instrument, apart from the flute, oboe and clarinet. Cases like the Berliner Dom where a high proportion of choir members became infected are anecdotal, not scientific. It's of course distressing to read of choir members and their families in Germany and the Netherlands being infected and some even dying from COVID-like infection. But it's also distressing to read of some senior English clergy and risk managers wielding poor information in their proposals, stoking anxiety unnecessarily, and undermining the essence of Christian worship, the wonderful enjoyment of singing, and the livelihoods and mental health of musicians. There is a big difference between reputational protection based on fear, and pastoral care.

Proximity is the problem, not singing: singers exhale in a more controlled way when singing that breathing normally and it has been shown that the standard distance of 2 metres is sufficient to mitigate risk properly. Double that for flautists! Choirs may well need to adapt seating and standing arrangements - and, of course, suspend the singers' habit of hugging each other on arrival and departure. But if you are a sufficient distance from someone to breathe, then singing is not problematic. If you can breathe safely, then you can sing.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/17/did-singing-together-spread-coronavirus-to-four-choirs>

Another ancient quotation that I found years ago but can't now trace (I have a feeling it was in one of St John Chrysostom's sermons) is even better than the one attributed to St Augustine:

Those who speak their praises give voice to their faith.

Those who sing their praises give voice to their love.

Here at All Saints, St Andrews, we have quite a lot of chant resources: if anyone would like a copy of Compline (traditional or contemporary) with the music for chanting, I can send a pdf with a tailored cover for a specific Charge. Anything to keep people singing: it's very good for physical and mental health!



**The Rev'd Canon Christine Fraser** writes 'We have been confined to our homes for a number of weeks and for some it has been a sanctuary, for others it hasn't been so good. This week I am suggesting that we take a prayer walk round our house and garden, thinking about those who don't have a place they can call home, those who are refugees and those who are homeless, those who don't feel safe at home because of abuse, those who may lose their homes because their livelihood is threatened. Perhaps you might like to take an ornament, a book, or something which means something to you and walk with it as you visit each room. If it's not easy for you to walk round your home, please use the images posted on the Diocesan website <https://standrews.anglican.org/clergy-development-resources/> beside each room to help with your reflections. On 17th June, the clergy reflection group which meets 1030-1130 on Zoom will spend some time reflecting on the experience of our prayer walk, what we give thanks for and what we would prefer to give away.

TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE

## ALIVE IN GOD

A CHRISTIAN IMAGINATION



**The Rev'd Professor Trevor Hart**, St Andrew's St Andrews writes to his congregation: 'I've been reading a book by Timothy Radcliffe entitled *Alive in God: A Christian Imagination*. And it has raised some troubling questions for me about Christian response to the pandemic. But in one chapter he cites the third century Bishop of Alexandria, Dionysius, writing in the midst of a terrible plague in North Africa in 260AD which killed a third of the population there. In an Easter letter Dionysius writes as follows:

Most of our fellow Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbours and cheerfully accepting their pains. Many, in nursing and curing others, transferred their death to themselves and died in their stead. The best of our brothers and sisters lost their lives in this manner, a number of priests, deacons and laymen and women winning high commendation so that death in this form, the result of great piety and strong faith, seems in every way the equal of martyrdom.'

The full letter is well worth reading and can be accessed here <https://standrews.anglican.org/clergy-development-resources/>

## Prayer & Spirituality

Rev'd Kathy Barrable, Tayport and Newport writes about Spiritual Direction: 'I'm aware that many of us 'give' spiritual direction, and come from many traditions. I am Ignatian-trained, but like Ignatius himself, I have become much more eclectic, and this has given me a freedom to move in the Spirit. Anyone else who offers spiritual direction or accompaniment would like to meet for an initial Zoom chat to possibly form a supervision or exchange forum? This would be helpful and form a network which people, not only clergy could access? I regard SD as vital to one's wellbeing and growth. If interested please contact [kathybarrable13@gmail.com](mailto:kathybarrable13@gmail.com).



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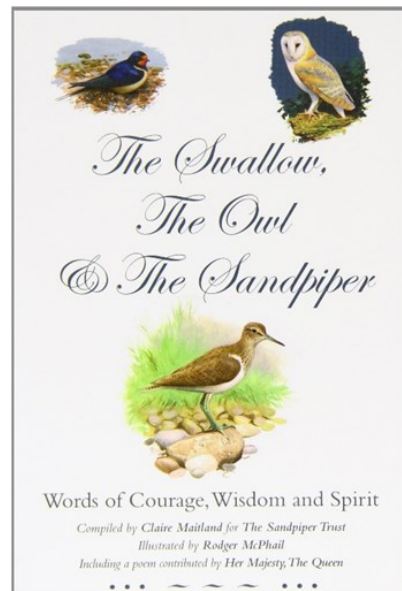
## Prayer & Spirituality

**Margaret Gray**, Reader, St Margaret's Tayport, sent in this blessing which is attributed to St Columba  
Be O Lord, a guiding star above me,  
a smooth path below me,  
a kindly shepherd behind me  
and a bright flame before me;  
today and forever. Amen.

Margaret also invites us to give thanks for all the blessings of our lives in this poem by **Elizabeth Craven** (1750 – 1828) taken from 'The Swallow, The Owl & The Sandpiper: Words of Courage, Wisdom and Spirit' compiled by Claire Maitland for the Sandpiper Trust.

I thank thee, God that I have lived.  
In this great world and known its many joys;  
The song of birds, the strong sweet scent of hay  
And cooling breezes in the secret dusk;  
The flaming sunsets at the close of day,  
Hills, and the lonely heather covered moors;  
Music at night and the moonlight on the sea,  
The beat of waves upon the rocky shore  
And wild white spray, flung high on ecstasy;  
The faithful eyes of dogs, and treasured books,  
The love of kin and fellowship of friends,  
And all that makes life dear and beautiful.

I thank thee too, that there has come to me  
A little sorrow and sometimes defeat,  
A little heartache and the loneliness  
That comes with parting and the word goodbye:  
Dawn breaking after weary hours of pain,  
When I discovered that night's gloom must yield  
And morning light break through to me again,  
Because of these and other blessings poured  
Unasked upon my wonderful head.  
Because I know that there is yet to come  
An even richer and more glorious life.  
And most of all, because thine only Son  
Once sacrificed life's loveliness for me-  
I thank thee, God that I have lived.



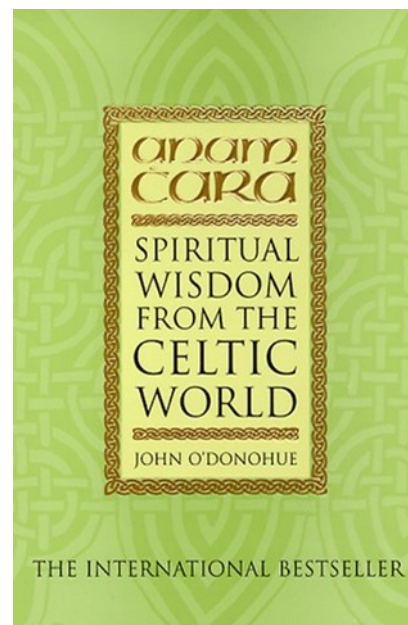
**The Rev'd Annie Hughes**, St John's Perth sent in this 'Morning Offering' by **John O'Donohue**  
I bless the night that nourished my heart  
To set the ghosts of longing free  
Into the flow and figure of dream  
That went to harvest from the dark  
Bread for the hunger no one sees.

All that is eternal in me  
Welcome the wonder of this day,  
The field of brightness it creates  
Offering time for each thing  
To arise and illuminate.

I place on the altar of dawn:  
The quiet loyalty of breath,  
The tent of thought where I shelter,  
Wave of desire I am shore to  
And all beauty drawn to the eye.

May my mind come alive today  
To the invisible geography  
That invites me to new frontiers,  
To break the dead shell of yesterdays,  
To risk being disturbed and changed.

May I have the courage today  
To live the life that I would love,  
To postpone my dream no longer  
But do at last what I came here for  
And waste my heart on fear no more.





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## Online Resources

The work of the people offers a range of films to help us explore issues of racism and faith.

[COVENANTAL RESTORATION](#) - A 12-session film series on race and faith

[PAIN TO POSSIBILITY](#) - talks about the Black church's gift to create space to nurture pain and lament into possibility.

[HEALING JUSTICE](#) on racism, white supremacy and the struggle to be whole...to be one...

[BUILDING EMPIRES](#) on what the dominant, white, Western, Christians learn from marginalized voices... and

[OUT OF TUNE](#) on what the white church needs to be liberated from.

**Journey with Jesus**, a website with topical lectionary reflections, essays, poems, music etc is commended by the **Rev'd Canon Dr Alison Peden**, St Modoc's Doune <https://www.journeywithjesus.net/index.php>:

**Materiality as Resistance: Five Elements for Moral Action in the Real World** a six part video course in which Walter Brueggemann explores how churches can engage in mission with their neighbours and their neighbourhood. [https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/film\\_series/materiality-as-resistance](https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/film_series/materiality-as-resistance)

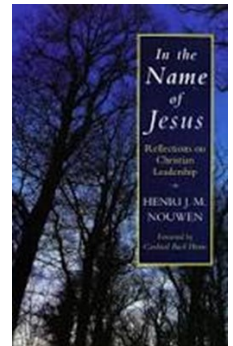
**Theology in a Time of Covid** <https://vimeo.com/425415436> recorded in May at Trinity College, Glasgow University. Dr Sarah Lane Ritchie (Edinburgh University), Professor Mark Elliot (Glasgow University), Rev Dr Carolyn Kelly (Glasgow University Chaplain), Professor John Swinton (Aberdeen University) offer short reflections and respond to questions.



## Reflections as we look forward

'It can be difficult to see the whole picture when you are still inside the frame.' **Tim Cook**, CEO of Apple, in a recent address to university students: sent in by the **Rev'd Eddie Sykes**, Minister in the Rosyth Ecumenical Partnership.

**Henri Nouwen**: 'My movement from Harvard to L'Arche made me aware in a new way how much my own thinking about Christian leadership had been affected by the desire to be relevant, the desire for popularity, and the desire for power. Too often, I looked at being relevant, popular and powerful as ingredients of an effective ministry. The truth, however, is that these are not vocations, but temptations. Jesus asks us to move from concern for relevance to a life of prayer, from worries about popularity to communal and mutual ministry, and from a leadership built on power to a leadership in which we critically discern where God is leading us and our people.' Henri Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*.



Lutheran theologian **Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber** picks up on some of the themes we were exploring in the Diocesan Mini Conference and writes 'when people ask me, "why are you still connected to the institution of the church?" I can only answer, "because I believe that scripture and theology and liturgy are too potent to be left in the hands of those who only use them to justify their dominance over another group of people". I also believe that God is powerful enough to guide us in the dismantling of the evil that has been done in God's name; that this is holy work and that God's Spirit will accompany us. <https://nadiabolzweber.com/>

Before we get 'back to normal,' we need to grieve and pray writes Methodist **Bishop Scott Jones** [https://religionnews.com/2020/05/11/before-we-get-back-to-normal-we-need-to-grieve-and-pray/?fbclid=IwAR37e0tFuZwDUyF\\_wYqHTaOiRHdR8dMHgWzQMKzdODAXEVtcW6c1uUO58w](https://religionnews.com/2020/05/11/before-we-get-back-to-normal-we-need-to-grieve-and-pray/?fbclid=IwAR37e0tFuZwDUyF_wYqHTaOiRHdR8dMHgWzQMKzdODAXEVtcW6c1uUO58w)

## Covid 19 and Climate Change

[If COVID-19 frightens you, you should be terrified by climate change](#)  
In this 'Faith Seeking Understanding' article, **Daniel Horan** writes: 'If you don't like the current reality of widespread illness, death, economic collapse and rolling lockdowns, then you should really direct your energies toward combating climate change.'

[Instead of a 'return to normal,' let's pursue a profound transformation](#)  
by **Elise D. Garcia**. Even before the pandemic, we understood that we were entering a make-or-break decade for humanity to act to avoid catastrophic climate change and global suffering.. Now the call could not be clearer.





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## Last word

Since not only worship but even post service coffee has now migrated for many of us online you might like to take your cue from Laurel and Hardy to bring your time together to a close.

[youtube.com/watch?v=2R5jOVZJCK4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2R5jOVZJCK4)



Since I am on retreat next week, the next edition of the Resource Sheet will appear on June 24th. Thank you for your contributions. Michael Paterson

These Resources are compiled & edited weekly by **the Rev'd Dr Michael Paterson**, CMD Coordinator and published by **the Rev'd Gerry Dillon**, Priest Evangelist, Central Fife Centre of Mission.

Contributions are invited from across the Diocese to [CMDCoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:CMDCoordinator@gmail.com)

Back copies of these Resources can be found on the Diocesan Website

<https://standrews.anglican.org/clergy-development-resources/>