

**ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND
ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 16, 2022

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8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing Service

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Processional: *Sing a New Song*

#312 HB

THE GREETING The Rev. Canon Simon Bell

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Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

People: **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie *Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day (Prayer of the Day)

All: **Almighty and everliving God, increase in us your gift of faith, that forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Fr. Simon: **Children's Time**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:27-34

READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 31:27-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals.

And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD.

In those days they shall no longer say: "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge."

But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

PSALM: 121 - **I Lift My Eyes Up**

Instrumental introduction

Music Team: I lift my eyes up to the mountains. Where does my help come from? My help comes from You, Maker of heaven, Creator of the earth.

Reader &

Congregation: I Lift my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Music Team: Oh how I need You Lord. You are my only hope. You're my only prayer. So I will wait for You, to come and rescue me, come and give me life.

Reader &

Congregation: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Music Team: I lift my eyes up to the mountains. Where does my help come from.

Reader &

Congregation: The Lord is your keeper, the Lord is you shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep you life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Music Team &

Congregation: My help comes from You, Maker of heaven, Creator of the earth.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF TIMOTHY

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.

For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths.

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: **Luke 18:1-8**

(All stand for the Gospel)

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According To Luke

People: Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.

He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people.

In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.'

For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'"

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says.

And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them?

I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon: Rev. Canon Simon Bell

The parable of the persistent widow

Psalm 121, Luke 18:1-18

In Luke 18 Jesus tells this odd parable, as Luke (18:1) puts it, to help the disciples understand that they “need to pray always and not to lose heart.” In other words, as modern-day disciples of Jesus we are meant to read this parable as a source of encouragement when things get tough.

The parable has an odd character to it: a judge “who neither feared God nor had respect for people.” In other words, the worst judge possible! For a year, I was the director of the Law, Race and Gender Unit in the Law Faculty at the University of Cape Town. At the time South Africa was drawing up a new constitution and, one of the projects I managed, looked at racial and gender equity in the legal system. Part of my job involved me traveling around parts of South Africa interviewing magistrates and judges and observing them in court.

At one interview in a rural community in the north of the country I interviewed a local circuit magistrate in a local mining community. As we stood in his office at the back of the courthouse, he pointed at the hanging tree stood in the yard and indicated, in his mind, the “need” for the reintroduction of public executions. Historically he had been known as one of the judicial characters that people so feared during apartheid and who they saw as lacking compassion and sense of acknowledgment of human worth. And, while a “religious man”, he would have fitted this story perfectly!

But there is a second character in the story, a widow who had suffered some injustice from what Jesus referred to as her “opponent.” Somebody who was out to get her. Now we need to remind ourselves that widows and

orphans were really at the bottom of the social heap in the society of Jesus' day. They were vulnerable to all forms of exploitation and harm because they lacked a "male advocate" in a strongly patriarchal society.

In order to resolve her plight to persistently come to the judge seeking justice. He initially refuses, but later says to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." In other words, he gives in to her persistence by doing what is right even though he is a mean and horrible character. Jesus then, in that classic twist that he uses, says, "Listen to what the judge says."

Clearly God is not the same character as the judge – that is the whole point of the story. But in contrast Jesus presents us with two questions, "And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them?" He then answers them, "I tell you he will quickly grant justice to them." In other words, God is not like a mean, horrible judge who denies justice and lacks compassion. Hardly! God is the complete opposite of that and so we should feel encouraged to offer our prayers to God and to persist in faith in seeking what is good, right, respectful and just.

Psalm 121, in using the limited geographic imagery of the day, reminds us of where we need to place our faith. While we clearly no longer believe in a flat earth that us despicable humans live on and an arching skyline where God "dwells", the imagery carries with it some wonderful symbolic language that talks about how we need to have a change in perspective when it comes to prayer. Prayer involves us looking at our circumstances within the bigger context of God's work throughout the created order as the foundation of our reality and the one who sustains and keeps us. That word "keep" is central to the Psalm and carries with it the understanding that we are not disposable, dispensable or discardable to God. In Biblical language God is not some impersonal cosmic force, but the very personification of what is good, compassionate, merciful, and just who desires our sustained existence.

But that symbolic language of looking up, over the horizon and "to the hills" is important because it is the language of hope that is so central to prayer. It takes us back to the central idea that Jesus wanted his disciples to understand, that they "need to pray always and not to lose heart." That if they truly understood the nature of God they would persist in prayer and feel encouraged to consistently come back to God. Pray God that we would have the faith to do likewise. Amen.

People: Amen.

(Time allowed for Silent Reflection.)

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

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Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE #3

(Let us offer our prayers to the source of all love and all life, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer.")

Leader: Merciful Lord, we pray for all who call themselves Christians; that we may become a royal

priesthood, a holy nation, to the praise of Christ Jesus our Saviour.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for Linda, our National Bishop, Anne, our Metropolitan, Andrew our Diocesan, and Riscylla, our Area bishops, and for all bishops and other ministers; that they may remain faithful to their calling and rightly proclaim the word of truth.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for Charles our King, for the leaders of the nations, and all in authority; that your people may lead quiet and peaceful lives.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for the City of Barrie and in all its diversity, that you will show your goodwill to all.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for the victims of our society and those who minister to them; that you will be their help and defence.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those preparing for baptism, (for those recently baptized); that they may be strengthened in the faith.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We give thanks for all the saints who have found favour in your sight from earliest times, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and those whose names are known to you alone; and we pray that we too may be counted among your faithful witnesses.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

(Silence is kept.)

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

People: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE PEACE:

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn: *The Only One*

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All: **Eternal God, your word inspires our faith. May we who offer you our praise trust you in all things. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER #5:

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do.

In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name, as we say,

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: we give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cared for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected.

Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread and share in the life of the family of your children.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom.

We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Celebrant: As now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF BREAD #2:

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

LAMB OF GOD:

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

THE COMMUNION

Communion Hymns:

Eat This Bread

#63 HB

In His Time

#116 SB

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: God of peace, you have nourished us in this sacrament with the body and blood of Christ. May we who have taken holy things keep faith in our hearts and lives, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY

All: Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or

imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Anthem: *“Breathe”*

THE BLESSING:

Celebrant: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour and grant us peace. **Amen.**

REMINDERS: *Birthdays/Anniversaries/Announcements*

Recessional: *You Are the Salt of the Earth*

#502 HB

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

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Special thank you to Kindred Spirit for sharing their musical talents with us today.

Assisting Rev. Canon Simon Bell

Celebrant/ Preacher: Rev. Canon Simon Bell
Anointers: 8:30 Michelle Sinclair
 10:00 – Altar Joyce Antony, Maggie Prentice
 10:00 – Office Cheryl McPhee, Margaret Paradis
First Reading: Doug Court
Psalm Reader: Kindred Spirits
Second Reading: Pauline Cook
Prayers: Lorraine Chew
Gospel: Beth Steffler
Server: Beth Steffler
Music: Craig Snider & Kindred Spirits
Audio/Visual: David Paradis
Chancel Ministry: Eileen Cunningham, Joyce Antony
Sidespersons: Grant Robinson, Doug Goodyer

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Bishop’s Committee on Healing Ministries

This morning in our worship we remember in our prayers those of our family and friends who have immediate needs and concerns:

Owen; Sophie; Theresa & Pete; Ken Maynard & Family; Maggie Prentice; Lorraine Whitwell; Wanda Hogan; Dave & Diane Lawrence; Katlin; Toby; Livia & Neil Purcell; Renee Walton, Kathryn, Gayle & Patrick Haley; Gladys Pecholcs; Kevin & Marie Lemoine; Virginia; June Hinkson; Judy & Don; Frances & Farrell; Arthur; Brody; Linda; Ida; Shirley Hatch; Edna Goyette; Frances McInnis; Ida; Nova; Irene; Kayla; Kim Middaugh; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Karyn; Peter Hubbard; Marilyn Lloyd.

The names below are people in need of ongoing prayers for various reasons so we ask you to please continue to pray for them and their continuing need of God's healing touch and grace:

Cecilia Mowat; Bob Hill; Rose Court; Kevin McDonald; Anthony Stone; Peggy Russell; Lequita Adkins; Rev. Janet Mitchell;; Brenda; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Donna & Ray Wilson; John; Celeste & parents; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Derek; Sean; Vayda; Barb Semsch; Phil & Kathy C.; Nancy Perault; Sharon Z; Adesh; Lisa Marie; Bill & Cathy Gray; Carrie Snow; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wally Raymond; Christine; Audrey Moody; Lynda Raye; Garn Mennell; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Michelle Sinclair and mom; Jane & Ron Lewis; Marilyn Foley; Bill Snow; Arlene; Joan Gough; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Wendy Goodyer; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin.

