

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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ADVENT 2

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Processional: *On Jordan's Bank*

#103 HB

THE GREETING: The Rev. Canon Simon Bell

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,

All: **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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Second Sunday of Advent Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. We light it again as we remember that Christ will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us.

Light the First Candle of HOPE.

Leader: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of Peace. God gives us the gift of peace when we turn to him in faith but peace is a gift that we must be prepared for. Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare our hearts so that he may come in.

People: **Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ and our peace is found only in him.**

Leader: We light this candle today to remind us that Christ, the Prince of Peace, brings peace to all who trust in him.

Light the Second Candle of PEACE

Leader: Let us pray:

People: **Loving God, thank you for the peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship this day and bless and empower each of us to continue as your faithful servants, now and always. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: **Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: **Malachi 3:1-4**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF MALACHI

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight--indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE: Luke 1:68-79

REFRAIN: The dawn from on high shall break upon us.

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. **R**

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. **R**

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. **R**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. **R**

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.
The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO LUKE**

People: Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon: Fr. Simon

**Prepare the way
Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6**

John, the son of Zechariah, was called to live in the wilderness in anticipation of the coming of the person the Jews would know as Messiah – a king who would be in the line of the great king David who would establish a kingdom of justice, hope and peace. His parents knew this would be John's calling so they had prepared him for this great calling or vocation and instilled in him that he was to bring this message of both judgment and hope.

In response he spent his early life wandering from each small town and village throughout the region around the Jordan "proclaiming the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (vs. 3). This rite of baptism involved a washing off of the past, a discarding of those things that hindered a true following of God, a healing of wounds, a restoration of humanity and a dying – a burial in water – of the former self. This repentance or *metanoia* involved a reorientation of one's mind, one's will and one's heart in preparation for something greater than what one had – greater than the hand that one was dealt in life, greater than the humdrum existence, greater than getting through life, greater than accepting one's lot.

It was a *metanoia* – a change of heart, life and will – proceeded by forgiveness and followed by living out the fullness of life in God. It started with forgiveness – the acknowledgement that things done or undone, things said or not said, things thought or not pondered, things felt or bereft of feeling – for those things that were not how we were designed to live.

Malachi foretold the messenger John – he was the siren before you heard the voice warning of what was to come. Malachi was careful to tell us that he was only going to be the messenger who told us what to expect – that this messenger was the one who would bring us news that would be hard to take or a Lord who would be hard to endure. A Lord who would purify with the same intensity that a metal worker purifies silver or a washerwoman scrubs clothing.

Isaiah echoed the message, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made to straight, and the rough ways made smooth" (vs.6). All those things in life that hinder the coming of the Messiah should be removed or dealt with. All the things we put up to obstruct, all those things we dig out to trap, all those things we twist to confuse, all those things we ruffled to obscure. Each and every one of them needs to be dealt with. We need to lower our guard, raise our expectations, focus our attention and look with clarity. That is what Lent and Advent are about.

Isaiah proclaimed that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God". That every living thing might know that God has come to establish a new way of being and doing, a new way of existing, a new way of living life in all its fullness. But, at times, it is easier to put up our defenses, to create another trap so the thing we fear does not reach us, to make life complicated so that nothing pierces us to the heart or to ruffles things up so that who we really are is obscured from view.

John's father, Zechariah, proclaimed (Luke 1:68-79): "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus, he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Zachariah hoped you had found rescue from your enemies and from the hands of those who hate you. That you had found mercy and promise of God to never leave or abandon you. That you had found the joy of serving and

the liberation of living without fear. That you had found God's purpose for your life and the health of living in right relationship with yourself, your neighbour and your God. That you had found forgiveness and the tender mercy of God. That each new day was like a new dawn of possibility full of the clarity of light and that even – yes even - when you encounter death, God would guide and hold you in peace. That is the hope of Advent.

People: **Amen**

(Time allowed for Silent Reflection.)

THE APOSTLE'S CREED:

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

People: **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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (#12):

(In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, “**Lord Jesus, come soon!**”)

Celebrant: O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

People: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Celebrant: O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

People: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Celebrant: O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

People: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Celebrant: O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

People: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Celebrant: O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness; come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

People: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Celebrant: O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

People: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Celebrant: O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.

People: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

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: *O Come Divine Messiah*

#95 HB

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

All: **God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER #3:

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 thanks and praise.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore, we raise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

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 thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

People: we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable to him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and made them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Celebrant: Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. In eating and drinking together may we be made one with Christ and with one another.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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

People: 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 #5:

Celebrant: God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

People: Happy are those who are called to the supper of the lamb.

THE COMMUNION

Communion Hymns:

Jesus the Joy of Loving Hearts
Shepherd of Souls

#70 HB

#85 HB

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

All: God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of 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.

THE BLESSING:

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

People: Amen.

REMINDERS: *Birthdays/Anniversaries/Announcements*

Recessional: *To God Be the Glory*

#371 HB

THE DISMISSAL:

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Assisting Fr. Simon today:

Celebrant/Preacher:	The Rev. Canon Simon Bell
Bread:	Fr. Simon
First Reading:	Eileen Cunningham
Second Reading:	Kevin Hamann
Prayers:	Lorraine Chew
Gospel:	Margaret Paradis
Server:	Beth Steffler
Audio/Visual:	David Paradis
Music:	Craig Snider
Sidespersons:	Bill Goodyer, Kevin Hamann
Chancel:	Beth Steffler

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

Cole; Stephen Bertelsen; Martin Bertelsen; Sharron Snider; Lisa Marie; Cheryl C.; Peter Hubbard; Mark Ralston; Kim Middaugh; Farrell & Frances McGinnis; Sophia L.; Jackson; Sally Smith; John & Terry; Marilyn Lloyd; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Adesh; Brenda Jessem; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean.

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:

Joyce Antony; Pam Rees; Alvin Maynard; Dave Lawrence; Livia & Neil Purcell; Jim Tomkins; Sheila Green; Carrie Snow; Sheri Scott; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wally Raymond; Christine; Audrey Moody; Lynda Raye; Garn Mennell; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Michelle Sinclair and mom; Jane & Ron Lewis; Cecilia Mowat; Laura Johnston; Marilyn Foley; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Fr. Murray; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; Gordon Kennedy; Paul & Rose McIntyre; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Anglican Church of Burundi

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Project Ploughshares – the peace institute of the Canadian Council of Churches