

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

161 Hanmer St. W., Barrie, On L4N 7S1

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Lent 3

Sunday, March 20, 2022

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Third Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022

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

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Processional: *Sing a New Song* #312 HB

THE GREETING: Rev. Canon Simon Bell Pg. 185

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.**

KYRIE: **Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY: (Prayer of the Day)

All: **Father of mercy, alone we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves. When we are discouraged by our weakness, strengthen us to follow Christ, our pattern and our hope; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

PSALM: 63:1-8

REFRAIN: My soul thirsts for you, O God, my God.

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So, I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. **R**

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So, I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. **R**

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. **R**

My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play."

We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.

And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.

So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

THE GRADUAL:

**All: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

People: Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"

No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'

He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

THE GRADUAL:

**All: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

SERMON: The Rev. Canon Simon Bell

Seek the Lord while he might be found

Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

All too often Christian faith is presented to us as a set of rules or as fire insurance or a response to fear or guilt. All too often we fail to recognise the wonderful invitation of God to be sustained in God's generous abundance and to be embraced in a commitment to love. In my view, if we flip our faith from a response to fear and grief and see it as a call to worship then we might end up in a very different place.

Worship could be understood as our response both to the invitation of God and the longing deep within us for divine connection. God's invitation in Isaiah (55:1) is, "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." It is matched by that longing for the Divine expressed by the Psalmist (63:1) "O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

This portion from Isaiah is God's invitation to the people to participate in the restoration following their captivity in Babylon. It is an invitation to be fed by God and to know the fullness of a life blessed in communion with God. It takes the basic elements of human sustenance – bread and water – and adds to them those things that delight – milk, honey and wine – that make life rich and abundant. It echoes Wisdom's banquet invitation in Proverbs 9:5 "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed."

That invitation is extended to not only be fed and sustained by God, but to live in covenant or agreement or partnership with God (55:3), "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David." That word steadfast or faithful love is *hassid* and carries with it the idea of a love that never fails and is always and consistently there. Here the invitation is an extension of the same love that David knew to all people and the fullness of humanity.

Worship carries with it then, the idea of an invitation to respond to an urgency or longing, deep within it, that seeks fulfillment. It carries with it the sense that this eternal hunger for the Divine can only find its fulfillment when we drink and feast on the very presence of God. That we find within the commitment to love and entrust ourselves to God not just the sense of our basic needs being met, but rather that in God we are entrusted with the abundant generosity of God that goes beyond our need. As the Psalmist (55:5) attests, "My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast."

While there is nothing about fear or guilt within this invitation, the passage in Isaiah (55:6) carries a sense of urgency to that invitation, "Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near." It suggests to us that we need to respond while the offer is there. That God has taken the initiative to invite us to find ourselves sustained and fed by God and to enter into a covenant of love with God and the moment for our response is now.

In essence worship is meant to be tactile, flavourful and appetising. It is meant to draw us into the embrace of God and to encourage us to drink deep from the well of God and to find sustenance for living out the fullness of life. It is meant to leave us with a desire for our "soul to cling to God" and for our mouth to utter praise with "joyful lips". But that does not just happen because we can manufacture it or emotively create it by setting mood or playing the right music or ignoring the boring bits or manipulating the experience – as much as some try to do. Worship starts with us and our desire and expectation because it is a matter of faith. If we gather in worship with the expectation that we need to be entertained or have our needs met, then my sense is that we are going to be profoundly disappointed. But if we gather in response to the invitation of God to be refreshed and renewed and fed and with a deep longing for that divine connection, then I believe that God honours that. It is that response in us that sets the platform for God to work because it indicates a receptiveness to simply receive from God abundance and to enter into God's compassionate embrace.

People: Amen.

THE NICENE CREED:

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Celebrant: Let us confess our faith, as we say,

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (#14)

(With confidence and trust let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")

Reader: For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth; we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For those preparing for baptism and for their teachers and sponsors, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus*

#508 HB

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All: Gracious God, we know your power to triumph over weakness. May we who ask forgiveness be ready to forgive one another, in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER #5

Pg. 204

Celebrant: The Lord Be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We life 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, you 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,

All: **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 names 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 cares 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.**

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour 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 #7

Pg. 213

Celebrant: We break this bread,

All: Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Celebrant: Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

All: if we have died with him, we shall live with him, if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.

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

Forty Days and Forty Nights
As the Deer

#175 HB

#40 SB

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: God of mercy and forgiveness, may we who share this sacrament live together in unity and peace, 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.

THE BLESSING:

Celebrant: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Notices

Recessional: *Immortal, Invisible God*

#393 HB

THE DISMISSAL:

Reader: 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: The Rev. Canon Simon Bell
First Reading: Beth Steffler
Second Reading: Laura Johnston
Prayers: Lorraine Chew
Gospel: Peter Beckett
Servers: Beth Steffler
Music: Gayle Haley
Audio/Visual: David Paradis
Chancel Ministry: Beth Steffler
Sidespersons: John Snow, Kevin Lemoine

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

Stephanie; Nova; Roberta Place; Colleen; Donna, Ray Wilson & Fraser Family; Irene; John; Kayla; Dorothy McIlravey & husband Chuck; Kim Middaugh; Lorraine W; Wilma; Sally; Steve & Jade; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Stephen Bertelsen; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Karyn; Rev. Janet Mitchell; Dave & Winnie Fulcher; Martin Bertelsen; Sharron Snider; Peter Hubbard; Sally Smith; Marilyn Lloyd; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; 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:

Rose McIntyre; Vayda; Daniel Leibovich; Barb Semsch; Rose Court; Cecilia Mowat & Tanya Bowskill; Donna & Ray Wilson; Mark Ralston; Jackson; Phil & Kathy C.; Bob Anderson; Nancy Perault; Marco Romita & Rose; Sharon Z; Adesh; Lisa Marie; Joyce Antony; Bill & Cathy Gray; Alvin Maynard; Dave Lawrence; Livia & Neil Purcell; 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; Marilyn Foley; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Wendy Goodyer; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Anglican Church of Mexico

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Etobicoke-Humber Deanery