

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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Lent 4

Sunday, March 27, 2022

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Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

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

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Processional: *Shout to the Lord* **#56 SB**

THE GREETING: Rev. Susan Snelling 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: **Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.

The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

PSALM: 32

REFRAIN: You surround me with shouts of deliverance, O Lord.

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. **R**

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. **R**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. **R**

Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. **R**

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. **R**

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. **R**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 15:1-3, 11b-32

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

People: Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them.

A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' "

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'

Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.

But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

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. Susan Snelling

God of promise, inspire us on our Lenten journey with words of hope and encouragement. Tend our hearts and souls. Grant us courage to remain steadfast in our commitment to following in the way of our Shepherd and Friend your child Jesus. Amen

I want to begin this morning with Paul's bold proclamation to the Church in Corinth,

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!

All this is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

...So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

The parable of the Prodigal Son is the last of three stories Jesus tells the Pharisees and scribes when they are grumbling about him eating with tax collectors and sinners.

The first story is about a shepherd, entrusted with one hundred sheep. When one of those sheep goes missing - what is the shepherd to do? Go looking for the one that is lost and search for it until it is found and bring it home rejoicing or let it go, content now with ninety-nine sheep.

The second story is about a woman entrusted with ten silver coins. Suppose she loses one. What does she do - forget about it or sweep her whole house with the lamp lit until she uncovers it and gathers all her friends to celebrate with her?

Perhaps the scribes and Pharisees were on board with the celebrations in these stories. They are hypothetical and do not require much thought or reflection. So, to further illustrate his point Jesus tells one more story that hits closer to the heart. This is a story about a family or a community. We all can relate to family/community stories because that is where we live, every day. The characters are stereotypical or archetypal. There is a father - the head of the household. A young son - the wild child, always in trouble, unpredictable. An older son - super responsible, reliable, devoted. I trust we can all find ourselves in there somewhere, perhaps in more than one role.

As we hear the story and identify with one of the characters, we are either pleased, shocked, or confused by the outcome. We may be the repentant younger son, afraid to come home because of the things we have done, uncertain about the reception we will receive, prepared for the worst. How exciting that the father runs to meet his son, embraces him, restores him to his place within the family and has a big party to celebrate.

We may be the jealous, bitter older son. Feeling like all our hard work and devotion has meant nothing to our Father. He has taken us for granted. And never thrown such a party for us - and if anyone deserves a party is it us not our irresponsible, greedy, brother.

We may be the parent of two very different children. Their behaviour, values, hopes, and dreams are miles apart and we have been called to love each of them. As any parent will tell you that is a difficult task. We relate to these different children in different ways. And it is apparent that there is a strain in the brother's relationship with each other. Sibling rivalry is real. We want to teach our children what they need to know to grow up to be respectful, kind, loving people. What works for one child seldom works for another one.

So, when the irresponsible, poorly behaved son asks for his inheritance the father has a dilemma. It is a little worse than rude to ask for your inheritance while your parent is still living. Disgust and a flat out "NO!" is one response. We already know this child is prone to poor decision making. Therefore, it is likely that the money will be misspent and quickly gone. On the other hand, maybe the son needs to learn some important lessons and a donation from me -the parent- would allow that to unfold with costing my son anything.

Whatever inner thoughts the father had he generously gives the son the money that he requested. And off the son goes spending frivolously. Drinking, prostitutes, smoking, drugs, parties, until nothing was left. The shame and guilt land on the son. What has he done? How could he have been so stupid? What will he do now? He can't go home. That would be too embarrassing. This is a terrible place to be. Lonely, sad, afraid, ashamed. We know this feeling.

The father misses his son. Perhaps sometimes he looks out the window when he thinks about him. He grieves his son's presence in the house. He may be sad and having misgivings about giving his son the money. He may be worried about the choices his son can make and the possible consequences of them. We know this feeling too sad, concerned, second guessing ourselves.

One day as he is looking out the window, he thinks he sees his son approaching. It looks like his son, but this man is dishevelled, slow, head bent down. Every step he takes is an effort. Maybe his eyes are playing tricks on him. But as the man gets closer, he becomes surer that it is his son. The father grabs a robe and runs out the door. He runs to meet his son, heart racing. No more worry, sleepless nights. His son seems healthy if a bit dirty. What a miracle that he has come back! Joy, excitement, elation, love. I hope we also know what this feels like.

The older son has been out in the field all day and missed the homecoming but hears a party going on at his house and wonders what the heck is going on. When he finds out that his good for nothing brother is back, and his eccentric father is having a big party to celebrate he is angry. Why is his father having a party? What has his brother ever done? Look at everything I have done. He feels displaced, unappreciated, jealous. And this too is a familiar feeling.

This story is complicated, and it causes us to think about ourselves, our attitudes, our motivations, and our relationships. By linking this story with Paul's words about each person being a new creation in Christ, we can understand from a different perspective what this parable is about.

Reconciliation-

Jesus had been given a ministry of reconciliation. Thus, he ate and drank with those who were shunned and cast out by society, the unreconciled.

But we have been given this ministry of reconciliation by God through Christ. Each character in the story needs to be reconciled with the others. Seeing each other not from a human perspective which can be flawed, but as Christ would see us - beloved children of God. This enables us to use the gifts of grace, compassion, and kindness. We can step outside of our biased mindset and try on the other's mindset or God's mindset. We learn to forgive one another and as Paul says in Colossians 3:13 "bear with one another". Being reconciled does not mean that we will never have issues or disagreements. These things will happen, but we are committed to working at our differences and finding a way to move forward together. That is reconciliation.

The younger brother had to realize his place in the world and to learn what was really important.
The older brother had to learn that he was loved and appreciated for his devotion and responsible nature.

The father sought reconciliation with both sons for himself and between his two sons for their sakes. If we apply this story to God and humanity, we understand that God seeks for each of us to be reconciled with Godself and to work at reconciliation with those with whom we live, work, play, volunteer, locally and globally. Henri Nouwen provides an excellent example of how this works:

“I have often said, ‘I forgive you’, but even as I said these words my heart remained angry or resentful. I still wanted to hear the story that tells me that I was right after all; I still wanted to hear apologies and excuses; I still wanted the satisfaction of receiving some praise in return – if only the praise for being so forgiving!

But God’s forgiveness is unconditional; it comes from a heart that does not demand anything for itself, a heart that is completely empty of self-seeking. It is this divine forgiveness that I have to practise in my daily life. It calls me to keep stepping over all my arguments that say forgiveness is unwise, unhealthy, and impractical. It challenges me to step over all my needs for gratitude and compliments. Finally, it demands of me that I step over that wounded part of my heart that feels hurt and wronged and that wants to stay in control and put a few conditions between me and the one whom I am asked to forgive.

This ‘stepping over’ is the authentic discipline of forgiveness. But every time that I can step or climb over that wall, I enter into the house where the Father dwells, and there touch my neighbour with genuine compassionate love.”

People: **Amen.**

THE NICENE CREED:

Pg. 189

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: *Just As I Am*

#615 HB

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All: God of mercy and compassion, your Word calls us home to faith and love. Accept all we offer you this day, in the name of Jesus Christ 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 to 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

Pg. 211

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:

Lord Whose Love is Humble

#585 HB

Our Father, We Have Wandered

#611 HB

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: Giver of life, you enlighten all who come into the world. Fill our hearts with the splendour of your grace, that we may perfectly love you and worthily praise your holy name, through 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: *You Are Salt for the Earth*

#502 HB

THE DISMISSAL:

Reader: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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Assisting Rev. Susan today:

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Susan Snelling
Bread: The Rev. Susan Snelling
First Reading: Norm Savill
Second Reading: Jim Blogg
Prayers: Margaret Paradis
Gospel: Margaret Paradis
Servers: Beth Steffler
Music: Craig Snider
Audio/Visual: David Paradis
Chancel Ministry: Margaret Paradis, Michelle Sinclair
Sidespersons: Bob Cheesman, Al Lavender

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

Loretta's Family; Celeste & parents; Winnie Fulcher & Family; The Andrews & Kelly Families; Stephanie; Nova; Roberta Place; Colleen; 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; Martin Bertelsen; Sharron Snider; Peter Hubbard; Sally Smith; 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:

Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Brenda Jessem; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean; 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; 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 Church of the Province of Myanmar

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Area Councils of the Diocese