

**ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND
ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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9th Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 2022

When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation-- I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them.

When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

PSALM: 50:1-8, 23-24

Refrain: Our God will come and not keep silence.

The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. **R**

Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him. He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" **R**

The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. Selah "Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me. **R**

"Mark this, then, you who forget God, or I will tear you apart, and there will be no one to deliver. Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me; to those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God." **R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and

he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old--and Sarah herself was barren--because he considered him faithful who had promised.

Therefore, from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: **Luke 12:32-40**

(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

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;

be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.

If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon: Rev. Michael Peterson

Texts for this Sunday: Isaiah 1:1,10-20, Psalm 50:1-8,23-24; Hebrews 11: 1-3,8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. Lk 12: 37

I've chosen this text to begin today's discussion because I believe it highlights the key idea of today's gospel reading, the idea of readiness. By the word readiness, I mean our being prepared and ready to respond to what God asks of us. Last week, we heard from Luke's gospel about the foolish rich man who put his faith in earthly things, only to be let down by the unexpected shortness of his life. Today's reading carries this idea forward but in a positive direction. Rather than putting our trust in inert and temporary wealth, Jesus tells us to look for what God is doing in the world, so that we can receive the real rewards that God wants to give us.

As I said, the gospel is about readiness, so let's start by trying to understand that word better. My time in the Canadian Forces introduced me to readiness as a military term. Readiness to a soldier means having the right equipment, the proper training and fitness, so that you are ready for action at short notice. When I first joined the Forces as a nervous chaplain recruit, the need for readiness was drummed into us by constant inspections. At the crack of dawn, our training staff would examine everything, from the creases on our pressed shirts to our polished boots, even cleanliness of our toothbrushes, while we stood silently at attention by our tightly made beds. We quickly learned to be up well before the sun, polishing and cleaning, but if our efforts seldom passed muster and in the early days of our training we always paid for some fault with numerous pushups.

The same mania for readiness carried into our field training. Among the items we had to carry was a clumsy pouch for the gas masks which we always had to have with us. The pouches were a nuisance, but they also made a useful space to carry snacks for the long hours we spent outdoors between meals, which was strictly forbidden. One day, sure enough, came the dreaded cry "Gas! Gas! Gas!" and we all a few seconds to get out our masks and get them on properly. In the midst of us there was my friend Bill, foolishly holding a sandwich because he'd gotten in the habit of leaving his mask in the tent so he could carry extra snacks. That day we all had to do a lot of pushups, as our instructors drove home the point that readiness saves lives.

The idea of readiness also applies to our faith lives. Today's reading is typical of those heard during the season of Advent, like the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids (Mt 25:1-13). These readings are designed to emphasize the idea of being ready for the unexpected coming of God. The idea is that only those who are found ready will have a place in the kingdom of heaven. Usually being found ready means living a life of kindness, regard and charity for those less fortunate (inasmuch as you did it to the least of my brethren, you did it to me" Mt 25.40). In today's gospel reading, this idea is conveyed in Jesus telling his disciples to "sell your possessions and give alms" (Lk 12.33), alms being givings or donations to those less fortunate than ourselves. At the end of Matthew 25, there is a rather terrifying accounting, where those who are spiritually ready are sheep, who will be rewarded, and the unready, those who were not charitable and generous in life, are goats who will be punished (Mt 25.46).

If by now you're afraid that Jesus will suddenly appear like a dreaded Drill Sergeant to make a surprise inspection of your spiritual life, maybe finding you unfit and unready, let's look again at v. 37 of today's gospel reading.

Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. (v 37)

Notice what's curious about this passage. It's late, and the servants, the "slaves", have stayed up waiting for their "master" to arrive at some unannounced hour. Presumably they have everything ready for their boss: lamps lit, perhaps food and drink, a hot bath and a made and turned down bed. They've been busy and active when they no doubt wish they were asleep. But instead of being served, the master will serve his servants, waiting on them while they eat. So, what's going on here with this strange inversion of roles?

As I thought about this passage, I remembered the first night of my military basic training course to be a chaplain. We were in our barracks, wondering what the next day would be, and what would be expected of us. We weren't expecting our visitor, a mountain of a man. Corporal Jimmy Wells was a Newfoundlander, as solid as a rock from his native island. He'd had a long career as a soldier and a commando, including service in the horrible Rwanda mission, and still bore the invisible scars of his time there. We realized that he had seen and done things we would never care to think of, and he could have a scary temper, but we came to love him.

That night Cpl. Wells patiently sat down with a bunch of would-be chaplains, some of whom had never used an iron in their lives. As if talking to children, he showed us how to get a razor-sharp crease on our shirts, how to make our beds to the regulation drum tightness, and how to polish our shoes like mirrors. During our four-month course, we learned that while Cpl. Wells could run us ragged and shout at us when we annoyed him, most of all we realized that he wanted us to succeed. Later we learned that he still hurt from the things he'd seen and done, and he wanted us to be the sort of chaplains that could help soldiers with his sort of invisible wounds.

I think of the master turning up late to serve his servants, and I remember Jimmy Wells patiently showing us how to iron a shirt so we could one day be judged ready to be soldiers and chaplains. I never knew for sure what he believed, and he's gone now, so I can't ask him, but I think that in his own rough way, he was an example of the grace that we see in the first line of today's gospel:

Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Mt 23:12)

This line begins with those great words of the gospel, especially Luke's gospel, "Do not be afraid". How often do we hear these words, starting with the words of the angels to the shepherds in the Nativity story, and then repeatedly through the story, always reminding us that where Christ is at work, we need fear nothing. And what is the work of Christ? The work of Christ and the good will of the Father is to give us the kingdom, meaning not to give us stuff, not so shower us with blessings, but to make us ready and fit to be the blessing of the kingdom to the world.

How does the kingdom of God arrive, then? It arrives unexpectedly, like a thief or a late-night guest, and it shows up in unlikely forms, a master (or corporal) who comes to serve the servants. What does the kingdom of God look like? It looks like generosity to the poor, it's found in hearts that are attuned to heaven. Which leads me to a final point.

If the master who comes from the wedding to serve the servants is the Son of God, as I think it clearly is, who is the owner of the house at the end, the one who tries to guard his treasure from the thief? Is it possible that they are two different people? Is it possible that the owner of the house represents the part of our hearts that are set on guarding our earthly treasures, while the unexpected thief is the heavenly one that comes in the night to turn our earthly values on their head? Is the real treasure not those things that we try to cling to and protect, but

rather is the real treasure that which we give of our “good pleasure”? And, if so, as I think the gospel clearly suggests, how might that reorient our outlook and priorities?

How do we make ourselves ready for this work that God calls us to, this sharing of blessings? “Sell your possessions and give alms” says Jesus. We could let ourselves off the hook and say, well, he didn’t really mean “*all* our possessions”, but let’s remember that if we want to be judged ready for the kingdom of God, then we have to be part of the blessing that is the kingdom of God. So let me finish with a challenge. Over the next month, think of *one* thing you have that’s valuable, then sell it and give that money to a deserving charity, or, if that’s not possible, find some of your valuable time and use it to benefit others. I think you’ll enjoy how you’ll feel, knowing that as God has given the kingdom to you, so you have given the kingdom to others.

May God always find us ready and fit to share in the Kingdom, and may God find us willing to share it with others.

People: Amen.

(Time allowed for Silent Reflection.)

THE APOSTLE’S CREED

Pg. 189

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (#4)

(In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, “**Lord, hear and have mercy.**”)

Leader: We pray for all who confess the name of Christ; fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear and have mercy.**

Leader: We pray for those whose lives are bound in mutual love, and for those who live in celibacy; be their joy and their strength.

People: **Lord, hear and have mercy.**

Leader: For all in danger, for those who are far from home, prisoners, exiles, victims of oppression; grant them your salvation.

People: **Lord, hear and have mercy.**

Leader: For all who are facing trials and difficulties, for those who are sick, and those who are dying; show them your kindness and mercy.

People: **Lord, hear and have mercy.**

Leader: We pray for one another; may we always be united in service and love.

People: Lord, hear and have mercy.

Leader: We pray to be forgiven our sins and set free from all hardship, distress, want, war and injustice.

People: Lord, hear and have mercy.

Leader: May we discover new and just ways of sharing the goods of the earth, struggling against exploitation, greed, or lack of concern, may we all live by the abundance of your mercies and find joy together.

People: Lord, hear and have mercy.

Leader: May we be strengthened by our communion with all Christ's saints.

People: Lord, hear and have mercy.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pg. 191

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: *There is a Redeemer*

#136 SB

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All: Father, receive all we offer you this day, and grant that in this eucharist we may be enriched by the gifts of the Spirit. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC 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: *Lead Us Heavenly Father*
Seek Ye First

#564 HB

#458 HB

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: Eternal God, grant to your Church the unity and peace that we have tasted in this eucharist, the fruit of your life-giving Spirit. We ask this 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: 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.

People: Amen.

REMINDERS: *Birthdays/Anniversaries/Announcements*

Recessional: *Lord, I Lift Your Name On High*

#111 SB

THE DISMISSAL:

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

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

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Assisting Rev. Michael:

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Michael Peterson
Anointers: 8:30 Michelle Sinclair
10:00 – Altar Joyce Antony, Maggie Prentice
10:00 – Office Doug Court, Cheryl McPhee
First Reading: Laura Johnston
Psalm Reader: Cheryl McPhee
Second Reading: Jim Blogg
Prayers: Norm Savill
Gospel: Peter Beckett
Servers: Peter Beckett
Music: Craig Snider
Audio/Visual:
Chancel Ministry: Margaret Paradis, Michelle Sinclair
Sidespersons: John Snow, Randall Townsend

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Church in the Province of the West Indies

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

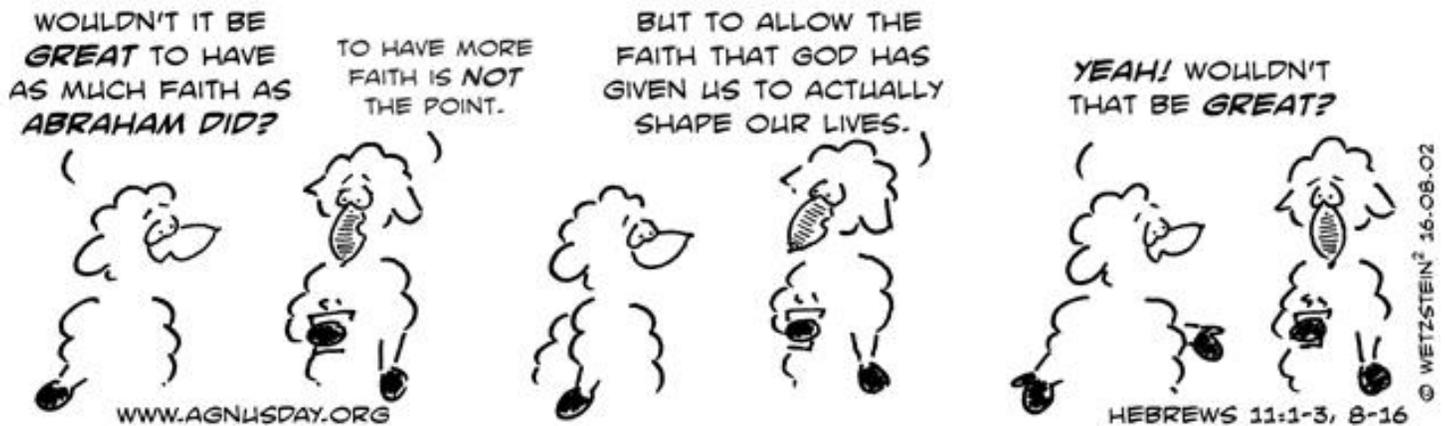
The Episcopal Leadership Implementation Team

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

Stephanie; Owen; Bob Hill; Rose Court; Craig Snider & Family; Virginia; June Hinkson; The Bertelsen Family; Gail Jones; Boutier family; Judy & Don; Frances & Farrell; Arthur; Toby; Brody; Linda; Anthony Stone; Judy Hill; Ida; Shirley Hatch; Edna Goyette; Frances McInnis; Ida; Cecilia Mowat; Alvin Maynard; Nova; Irene; Kayla; Kim Middaugh; Sally; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Karyn; 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:

Peggy Russell; Lequita Adkins; Stephanie; Maggie Prentice; Rev. Janet Mitchell; Matthew Canning; Brenda; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Donna, Ray, Nancy & Chris Wilson; Lorraine Whitwell; John; Celeste & parents; Colleen; Stephen Bertelsen; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Derek; Sean; Rose McIntyre; Vayda; Barb Semsch; Phil & Kathy C.; Nancy Perault; Sharon Z; Adesh; Lisa Marie; Bill & Cathy Gray; Dave Lawrence; Livia & Neil Purcell; Sheila Green; 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; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Wendy Goodyer; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin.



Pass The Word

August 7, 2022



Men's Breakfast

Please join us at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday the 7th of September for our monthly men's breakfast at the Breakfast House on Bayfield Street. Please contact Canon Simon at priest-stmargaretbarrie@toronto.anglican.ca for more information or to join the breakfast via Zoom.



NEW St. Margaret's Women's Breakfast Club

Starting third Wednesday of August (17th) -We will meet at the Breakfast House on Bayfield Street at 8:30. Please contact Rev. Susan Snelling at revsusan@roger.com for more information or to join the breakfast via zoom.

Effect Hope

“Effect Hope” (Leprosy Mission) continues to collect stamps. Thank you to St. Margaret’s. Keep up the worthwhile work. Please mind your stamp borders (1/4” surround borders needed). There is a sample shown on the Leprosy Envelopes on the Anglican Bulletin Board in front of the office. Thank you for your help.

Daily Devotions – team of writers at Good Shepherd, St. Margaret’s and Trinity – contact Norm Savill nsavill@bell.net to be included or check the parish websites.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Sunday service. – Out for summer.

Messy Church

Our next Messy Church will resume in September. Fun and fellowship for families. Crafts, story time, music, and prayers, simple supper. For more information contact Rev. Susan.

Movie Nights

We are going to alternate between Friday and Thursday nights for movies as we have some who would like to come out but can’t make it on Fridays.

Thursday, **August 18**, 7:00 p.m. - Movie – **“Death at a Funeral”**. This is the hysterical British version. Starring Ewen Bremner, Peter Dinklage, Matthew MacFadyen, Kris Marshal.

******We would really appreciate donations to the foodbank for Movie Nights.******

Book Club

We will resume book club in September.

If you would like more information, please contact Michelle: michelle_e_sinclair@yahoo.ca OR 705-737-9895. Please feel welcome to join us even if you have not read the book.

Covid Update

We have returned to the Green Phase in our Diocesan response to Covid. This means that all restrictions have now been dropped including wearing of masks, physical distancing, sharing the Common Cup and hospitality around food. This means that we will need to exercise our own discretion and care and that we will need to respect the choices that others make. We will do our utmost to retain a safe and healthy space for worship and community activities. We will reintroduce the Common Cup for the Eucharist and coffee hour after services in June once we have ironed out some of the logistics of what that will take. Proof of vaccination will still be a requirement for those participation in leadership and ministry.

Covid Shot Update

Just a reminder that to be a volunteer at the church you must have your COVID immunization shots. If you have already told us of your first two shots, thank you. If you have had any others since your 2nd shot, can you please bring in your confirmation showing the dates so we can update your record. Once again, thank you so much for volunteering to help our church.