

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

161 Hanmer St. W., Barrie, On L4N 7S1 (705) 721-9528 www.stmargaretbarrie.ca

Email: stmarg@rogers.com

Fax: (705) 721-9455



ALL SAINTS DAY

October 31, 2021

10:00 a.m. Service

ALL SAINTS DAY

October 31, 2021

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

PROCESSIONAL: *To God be the Glory*

#371 HB

THE GREETING:

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.

GLORY TO GOD

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest,

All: and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Kyrie: Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: They are before the throne of God, and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. *Revelation 7:15.*

People: **Amen**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: **Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy Church, the mystical Body of your Son, grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 25:6-9

A READING FROM BOOK OF ISAIAH

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm: **24**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6a

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Revelation 21:1-6a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 11:32-44

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

People: Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So, the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him and let him go."

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON: Dr. Amy Pauley

Happy All Saints Day! Today, we celebrate all the saints both known and unknown. Who are saints? A standard definition is that saints are people in history who lived famous, holy, and virtuous lives. And the saints are in the afterlife with God – in the Kingdom of Heaven. But not all saints are famous. And not all saints are gone, in the past, dead. There are saints among us, here, in this room. And so is the Kingdom of Heaven – it is among us, here, within all of us.

This is the communion of saints: the spiritual union of all people in God. This union is alive and present in the Kingdom of Heaven. So, one could ask us, "Who are saints?" And, in humility and faith, we can say, "I'm a saint. We're saints." Bold! Yes. But the Kingdom of Heaven is bold and emergent and life changing. It makes the difference between spiritual life and death.

What is the Kingdom of Heaven? When Jesus talks about the Kingdom, he reveals "*what has been hidden from the foundation of the world*" (Matt.13:35). Jesus continually and openly proclaims the good news: the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, it is near, or it is here. The Kingdom of Heaven is why the Son of God is sent to us. It is why the Holy Spirit dwells between us. And in the gospels, we are told that the Kingdom is also within us and where we go after our physical death. The Kingdom of Heaven is very important.

If the Kingdom is so important, so present, why is it so hidden? Jesus talks about it in parables. The Kingdom is like a seed – a tiny mustard seed – that becomes a big tree where birds can build their nests. It's like yeast grown from smelly fungus that makes wheat rise and produces a surplus of fluffy, yummy bread. The all-important, life changing Kingdom emerges from something often overlooked, undervalued, and unnoticed.

The Kingdom starts with God. In creation, God is the source of all life and form. Form is out there. Forms are noticed by our senses. We can see, hear, taste, touch, smell the forms of life. The birds, the buildings, and other human beings. But the source of life is hidden. And though it can't be seen, it can be known.

Human beings have an interesting role in creation. We don't just live – we can know that we live. Here, now, I live, you live, we live. It's a gift. We don't buy it or earn it. It's available to everyone to experience, no degrees required. Life is a free gift. It's felt, sensed, known in the simple presence of here and now. It's being aware – awake – alive. It's amazing that we can feel and know this life.

And we can also forget that we live – or not notice the gift of it. This is true for all sorts of good things. For example, I can overlook the following: I live, I love, I disagree, I walk, I eat, I understand, I feel. I... Who is this I? Who are we?

In Genesis, in the beginning, we are images or reflections of God. We are like God. This “I” in us is like the “I” of God. In Exodus, Moses asks God, “What’s your name? Who are you?” And God says, “*I AM [YHWH]* (Ex.3:14).”

There is an “I” in all of us. It’s the “I” that sees, that feels, that yearns. It’s what some call consciousness and others call spirit. I believe it is the “light” of John’s gospel and the Kingdom of Heaven within. It’s wakefulness, being alive, presence. It is so much a part of us that we often forget.

And we get into trouble when we think that our “I” – who we are – is what we own or have achieved; what we look like or what we do for money. We can strive obsessively to build up and to protect our false self. We can judge and fight and hurt each other over it. We can confuse our real identity with a false one.

The false self is often called the “ego” (“I” in Latin). In the gospels, thinking that our egos need to be built up is called being spiritually dead or asleep or sick. And entering the Kingdom is referred to as becoming alive, awake, healed. Living out of our spirit is real life. Living out of our ego is fake life – it’s spiritual death. All these things can be taken away from the ego: money, power, health, youth, knowledge. What remains is the light, the spirit, the presence – the real “I.” It is the spark of the divine in us. And this is who we are. This is the Kingdom of Heaven within us and between us and beyond us.

God tells us how to live out of the real self or the spirit: love, believe, strive for the Kingdom on earth and beyond. And this is what the saints do. All the saints, past, present, and future. We let God’s light shine through. Our goal is peaceful union of spirit with God. And our real lives, our spirits, they live on in the Kingdom forever. We are the communion of saints. We believe this. Recall the Apostle’s Creed: “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.”

What can shake this belief to the core? Death. Physical death is part of the human condition. Death can become like an opponent, a competing wrestler in the theatre of our lives. Can the God of Life truly beat Death?

In today’s gospel, Jesus battles Death. And Jesus wins. Lazarus is raised from his death. The episode foreshadows Jesus’ own death and resurrection. God the Father gives Jesus the power to restore life after death. We can know that the divine Jesus, the Son of God, restores life. But physical death still causes turmoil. It is human. When he confronts the death of Lazarus, “Jesus began to weep” (v.35). Other translations capture the intensity: “Jesus bawled” or “Jesus burst into tears.”

Jesus loves Lazarus and his sisters, Mary, and Martha. They know Jesus is a powerful healer. And Mary and Martha love Jesus and believe in him. But they love their brother too. Death has taken Lazarus. So, they cry. And they question Jesus’ power to do anything about Death.

To those who mourn, it appears that Jesus has finally met his match. Death appears like an enemy that no one can beat. Jesus goes to the tomb of Lazarus. His tears may have stopped but Jesus is “*greatly disturbed* (vv.33, 38)” – agitated, angry, indignant. Why? Jesus is about to face Death. And Death causes us to cry, and it causes us to question our faith in Jesus and in the reality of the Kingdom within us, around us, and beyond us.

In the face of physical death, the spirit dwelling in each of us appears dead too. The spirit is what we could never see or touch or smell in this life. And it seems well and truly gone. Physical death makes us question spiritual life. So, for us to believe, Jesus raises Lazarus. He says, “*Lazarus, come out!*” (v.43) And Lazarus comes out of the tomb all wrapped up in cloth. And then Jesus tells people, “*Unbind him, and let him go*” (v.44). Let him go home and live.

The God of Life defeats Death. Christ defeats Death. But we can forget. Physical death can make us think that the material form, what we can see or touch, is the only thing that matters. We can forget the spark, the spirit, the presence of God within. And then we can slip, fall, and undergo a spiritual death.

There’s another option. Physical death can continually remind us that the spiritual life is what is most important – our spirit is who we are. We are the communion of saints – the spirits that light up the world and live on. And we die and rise to new life with Christ. New life is not just in the past or in the distant future. We are spirits, now, and we are loving, learning, and building the Kingdom together. New life in the Kingdom of Heaven can happen here, with all of us, in communion with God. Happy All Saints Day!

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 (#6)

(As we stand in God’s presence, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”)

Officiant: For the whole People of God, that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant: For those drawing near to the light of faith, that the Lord will bring them to true knowledge of himself, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant: For our families and friends, that the Lord will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant: For those who are lonely, sick, hungry, persecuted, or ignored, that the Lord will comfort and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: For our country, that the Lord will help us to contribute to its true growth and well-being, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray to the 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: Holy and mighty God, we give you thanks for the triumph of Christ in the lives of all his saints. Receive all we offer you this day, and help us, like them, to run our course with faith, that we may come to your eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER 1

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: It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things. You formed us in your own image: male and female you created us. When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us, but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation. Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give thanks and raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

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 name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, 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 for the 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."

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore. Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith,

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

Celebrant: Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy People, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 #3

Celebrant: Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat, whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

All: **So, may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

LAMB OF GOD:

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:

Seek Ye First
Here Lord We Take

#458 HB
#65 HB

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: **Lord of hosts, we praise your glory reflected in your saints. May we who share at this table be filled with the joy of your eternal kingdom, where Jesus is Lord, now and for ever. 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: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

#565 HB

THE DISMISSAL:

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

People: Thanks be to God.

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Assisting Rev. Simon today:

Celebrant:	The Rev. Simon Bell
Preacher:	Dr. Amy Pauley
Bread:	Fr. Simon
First Reading:	Maggie Prentice
Second Reading:	Kevin Hamann
Prayers:	Doug Court
Gospel:	Margaret Paradis
Server:	Beth Steffler
Audio/Visual:	David Paradis
Music:	Craig Snider
Chancel Ministry:	Sharon Zacchigna, Marie Lemoine
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:

Peter Hubbard; Mark Ralston; Kim Middaugh; Pam Rees; Livia & Neil Purcell; Farrell & Frances McGinnis; Sophia L.; Jackson; Sally Smith; John & Terry; Marilyn Lloyd; Theresa & Pete; Dave Lawrence; Valerie; Stephen and Martin Bertelsen; Alvin Maynard; Amanda Rose; Darlene Jessem; Jim Tomkins; 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:

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 Episcopal Province of Alexandria

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada