

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Blue Christmas

Healing Service



Celebrant:
1st Reading:
Gospel:
Healing Litany:
Servers:
Music:

The Rev. Simon Bell

Beth Steffler
Beth Steffler
Beth Steffler
Craig Snider

Blue Christmas Service
December 9th, 2020
Communion & Healing Service
7:30 p.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Words of Welcome

Welcome to this time of stillness. We invite you to participate as you feel comfortable.

Hymn: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Call to worship

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: Let us pray.

(All may pray silently.)

O God, the maker and redeemer of all, grant us, with your servants we remember and all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection; that in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

Collect

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Psalm: 38

O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger, or discipline me in your wrath.

For your arrows have sunk into me and your hand has come down on me.

There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation;
there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.

My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness; I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all day long I go around mourning.

For my loins are filled with burning and there is no soundness in my flesh.

I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

O Lord, all my longing is known to you; my sighing is not hidden from you.

My heart throbs, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.

My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction and my neighbors stand far off.

Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin and meditate treachery all day long.

But I am like the deaf, I do not hear; like the mute, who cannot speak.

Truly, I am like one who does not hear and in whose mouth is no retort.

But it is for you, O LORD, that I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.

For I pray, “Only do not let them rejoice over me, those who boast against me when my foot slips.”

For I am ready to fall and my pain is ever with me.

I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.

Those who are my foes without cause are mighty and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good.

Do not forsake me, O LORD; O my God, do not be far from me; make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we

declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of Christ

Homily: The Rev. Simon Bell

Priest: Oh God of all, who gave your Son Jesus Christ to be born on Christmas Day in the rude and bare stable in Bethlehem: we remember before you those for whom Christmas brings little joy. In the course of this pandemic we pray for those in the midst of sickness or suffering, and for all in hospital.

Comfort those who mourn and send your peace into their souls. Grant companionship to those who are lonely and isolated. Give healing to those who suffer in body or mind or spirit, courage to those who suffer through oppression and persecution, peace to those whose lives are fractured by conflict and make plain the way of help.

Grant to us all by acts of kindness and words of goodwill to spread the spirit of him whose birthday we keep, even your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Prayers of the People (Healing Litany)

Leader: *Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers...* God our Creator, your will for all people is health and salvation.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled that they may be made whole;

We thank you, Lord of Life.

Grant to all who seek, your guidance; and to all who are lonely, anxious or depressed, knowledge of your will and awareness of your presence.

We thank you, Lord of Life.

Help us to mend our broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

We thank you, Lord of Life.

Bless all who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, compassion and patience;

We thank you, Lord of Life.

Grant to the dying peace, and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

We thank you, Lord of Life.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken in our lives, in our nation and in the world.

We thank you, Lord of Life.

Leader: You are the Lord who does wonders.

Merciful God, we thank you that you know and love each person we have named. We believe that you know their needs and ours. Help us Lord to put our trust and confidence in Your power and love. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Confession & Absolution

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 Hear the Voice of Jesus*

Eucharist Prayer (#2)

The Lord's Prayer:

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

People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread #5

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

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

Communion Hymn

Prayer After Communion

Benediction

May the protection of God comfort us,

May the courage of Jesus sustain us,

May the tenderness of the Spirit embrace us.

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son

And Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever. **Amen.**

Departure (in unison)

May we be gentle with ourselves, remembering that we are created in the image of God.

May we go into the world with honesty and thanksgiving, embracing tears, laughter and all that is good.

Recessional