

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Service

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

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11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

THE GREETING:

Rev. Canon Simon Bell

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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.**

By this will all know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:35

THE COLLECT

All: **Lord God, your Son our Saviour gave his body to be whipped and turned his face for men to spit upon. Give your servants grace to accept suffering for his sake, confident of the glory that will be revealed through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be

put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

THE PSALMS

Psalm 70

Officiant: Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.

People: O LORD, make haste to help me!

Officiant: Let those be put to shame and confusion

People: who seek my life.

Officiant: Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor

People: who desire to hurt me.

Officiant: Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"

People: turn back because of their shame.

Officiant: Let all who seek you

People: rejoice and be glad in you.

Officiant: Let those who love your salvation

People: say evermore, "God is great!"

Officiant: But I am poor and needy;

People: hasten to me, O God!

Officiant: You are my help and my deliverer;

People: O LORD, do not delay! Amen

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:1-3

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 13:21-32

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.” The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So, while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “Do quickly what you are going to do.” Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival”; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

Stewards of the Vineyard

Psalm 128; 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11; Mark 12:1-11

The Parable of the Vineyard is found in all three of the synoptic Gospels (see Matthew 21:33-46; Luke 10:9-19) and carries through an image of the people of Israel being God’s vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7). It builds upon the idea in Genesis 1 and 2 of us being stewards of all of God’s creation, but also points more narrowly to the chief priests, scribes and elders who come to Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem in order to question by what authority Jesus does what he does. The parable is a reminder that these religious authorities have been given stewardship of the people of God and that they have failed in their duty.

In the parable the owner of the vineyard first sends his slaves to the tenants to collect his share of what has been produced. In response they either beat them and send them away empty handed and they finally kill one. And Jesus says, “And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed” (vs.5). Finally, the vineyard owner sends his last option, namely his son. He thinks to himself, “They will respect my son.”

But rather than recognising the son’s authority, they see an opportunity to actually steal his inheritance. They said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.” So, Jesus tells us, “So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.”

Now the listeners would have been well aware of the intention in the parable. They knew that the religious authorities of their day were absentee landlords of estates with tenant labour and, in addition, recognised that they were stewards of the people God had given them care of. But an added element for these peasant farmers who were listening to Jesus tell the parable was that they, through poverty, had ended up as tenant farmers on their own land that those in religious authority had secured from them. The parable would have carried that double meaning for them that God was going to punish those who had stolen their inheritance from them as

much as God was going to deal with these same religious authorities who had failed to steward the religious life of the community with care and compassion and the recognition of the fact that they were only stewards.

Jesus then ends the parable with this quote from Psalm 118:22-23, ““The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes.” But rather than ending it as a statement, Jesus ends it as a question, “Have you not read this Scripture? It would seem a rhetorical question because clearly as religious scribes who copied the religious text and elders and priests in the Temple they would have known these passages by heart. But the point that Jesus is making – that the son is the very cornerstone of the Temple that the priests had stewardship of and was foundational to its life and continuation. To destroy the cornerstone is to destroy the very Temple itself.

It is Peter in the book of Acts (4:8-12) who picks up on this very idea when he challenges the religious authorities when they question by what authority he performs miracles, “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.” There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’”

We are reminded yet again on Holy Wednesday that we are simply stewards of the faith that is entrusted to us. And that those of us in leadership are simply stewards of the vine – the church - of which we are a part. That it is solely by the authority of Christ, the cornerstone and foundation of the new people of God, the church, that we lead and function in ministry. This is not ours to hold on to as if we possess it – it is simply Gods and that we are ultimately accountable to God for who we steward it. Amen

People: Amen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Hear, O Israel

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Officiant: Let us offer our intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings, saying,

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Officiant: May we live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross.

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Officiant: May all people receive the good news of Christ’s victory.

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Officiant: May those born to new life in the waters of baptism know the power of Christ's resurrection.

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Officiant: May those who suffer pain and anguish find healing and peace in the compassion of Christ.

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Officiant: May we be united in Christ's undying love with all who have passed through the gates of death.

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Officiant: We pray for Winnie Fulcher and her family as they mourning the passing of Dave and for Lorraine Whitwell & family in the passing of her sister Cathy Cassin.

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

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

All: God of glory, may our worship this day fix the eyes of our faith on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our new humanity, who is seated at the right hand of your throne, now and for ever. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER #3:

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.

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: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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."

All: Therefore, Father, according to his command, we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unit us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

People: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF BREAD #7:

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

All: God our help, your Son was betrayed by one who called himself a friend. May we who call him Lord ever remain his faithful people, for he lives and reigns with you now and for ever. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY:

All: Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask of imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

NOTICES:

BLESSING:

Officiant: 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.

DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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Assisting Rev. Canon Simon today:

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Canon Simon Bell

Video: David Paradis

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

Donna, Ray, Nancy & Chris Wilson; Ida; Cecilia Mowat & Family; Lorraine Whitwell & Family; Celeste & parents; Winnie Fulcher & Family; Stephanie; Alvin Maynard; Nova; Colleen; Irene; John; Kayla; Dorothy McIlravey & husband Chuck; Kim Middaugh; Wilma; Sally; Steve & Jade; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Karyn; Rev. Janet Mitchell; 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:

Martin Bertelsen; Stephen Bertelsen; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean; Rose McIntyre; Vayda; Daniel Leibovich; Barb Semsch; Rose Court; 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; 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 Diocese of Kumi (Uganda)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Holy Week