

**ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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**Wednesday Service**

*Wednesday, April 20, 2022*

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11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

THE GREETING: Rev. Susan Snelling

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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.**

**THE COLLECT**

**All: Lord of life and power, through the mighty resurrection of your Son, you have overcome the old order of sin and death and have made all things new in him. May we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, reign with him in glory, who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**THE PSALMS**

**Psalm 97**

Celebrant: The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;

**People: let the many coastlands be glad!**

Celebrant: Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;

**People: righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**

Celebrant: Fire goes before him,

**People: and consumes his adversaries on every side.**

Celebrant: His lightnings light up the world;

**People: the earth sees and trembles.**

Celebrant: The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,

**People: before the Lord of all the earth.**

Celebrant: The heavens proclaim his righteousness;

**People: and all the peoples behold his glory.**

Celebrant: All worshipers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols;

**People: all gods bow down before him.**

Celebrant: Zion hears and is glad and the towns of Judah rejoice,

**People: because of your judgments, O God.**

Celebrant: For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;

**People: you are exalted far above all gods.**

Celebrant: The LORD loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful;

**People: he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

Celebrant: Light dawns<sup>[c]</sup> for the righteous,

**People: and joy for the upright in heart.**

Celebrant: Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,

**People: and give thanks to his holy name!**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** 1 Corinthians 15:29-41

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

Otherwise, what will those people do who receive baptism on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?

And why are we putting ourselves in danger every hour? I die every day! That is as certain, brothers and sisters, as my boasting of you—a boast that I make in Christ Jesus our Lord. If with merely human hopes I fought with wild animals at Ephesus, what would I have gained by it? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” Come to a sober, and right mind, and sin no more; for some people have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 28:1-16

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

**People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So, they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, "You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So, they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

The Gospel of Christ.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Sermon**

Rev. Susan Snelling

God who raised Christ from the dead, speak to us through word and thought so that your will may be done, and our nightmare give way to your dream for our world. Amen.

This account of the resurrection is different from the one we may have heard Easter morning. In Matthew's gospel there is an earthquake for example. This mirrors the earthquake which occurred when he died two days before this story. God is present, at work - shaking things up in both instances - disturbing the natural order.

It is this earthquake that prompts the rolling away of the stone, allowing the women to see inside. Finally, there is an angel in dazzling white who speaks to the women. Any one of these incidents may have prompted the women to turn around and go back to safety and shelter. But here they are at the tomb, talking, to an angel while the guards, tremble nearby.

The angel has three messages for the women.

The first message is, "Do not be afraid." These women had endured the cruel and brutal death of their teacher Jesus. They were anxious about their future and the future of their friends and fellow followers. But they were also mourning and sought to visit the tomb. Now they are faced with a series of strange occurrences perhaps meant to scare them off. But calmly they are told not to be afraid because the angel knows they have come to look for their friend Jesus. When every instinct speaks fear into our minds and hearts, Jesus comes with calming presence. Do not be afraid - because something is happening which you do not need to fear - it will be for your benefit and because of God's love.

Trust God - God is working out a plan, a situation with your best interest at heart.

The second message is that Jesus has risen. Jesus had spoken about how he must die but on the third day he would rise again. The disciples had become angry or sad when he talked like this, but Jesus had been trying to prepare them for what was going to happen. Now it seemed that his prediction had become a reality. Unprepared as they may have been, Jesus had risen. What next?

Kindly, the angel has a third message. The women are to go back to their brothers and sisters, their siblings and tell them to go to Galilee. That is where they are to meet Jesus. They are to return back to the place where the ministry began. The circle or spiral of life is about to start over. Except this time; they will be the ones calling others to discipleship; they will be the ones performing miracles and teaching in the synagogues; they will be the ones attracting a crowd anxious to learn about Jesus, his ministry and what comes next.

This three-step process:

- 1) Do not be afraid
- 2) Do not doubt that things are unfolding as God intends
- 3) There is work for you to do too

happens over and over again in the story of the early Christian community and in the church throughout history - right up to the present day.

People are going about their business, living within institutions and circumstances which they understand. That doesn't mean they are favourable or unfavourable - only familiar. There is a crisis point - natural disaster, major world event, new discovery which breaks in and causes chaos. Our response needs to be one of calm - not of fear. Calm helps us to stop and begin to process what is happening. Fear keeps us running. God speaks into the new situation reminding us not to be afraid.

Trust that things are unfolding as God intends. No matter how far-fetched it seems, or how disordered life seems there is more going on than we can see. Always. What is impossible for us, is possible for God. Thoughts and assumptions about how things "are" can be challenged. Old ways of doing and understanding give way to new concepts, habits, thoughts.

Finally following instructions is key. God calls us to action in our world. Faith is not just adherence to a specific set of beliefs but also a willingness to engage in the world around us as Christ would have us engage. With love, compassion, forgiveness, courage, hope, joy.

The women joyfully go to tell their siblings what they have seen and heard so that they in turn can go and meet the risen Christ in Galilee. We joyfully go to our world proclaiming that Christ is risen. God offers new life to those who seek it.

**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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (#15 Litany)

(In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, “Hear us, Lord of Glory!”)

**Reader:** That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

**Reader:** That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

**Reader:** That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

**Reader:** That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

**Reader:** That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

**Reader:** That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened; let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

**Reader:** That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Hear us, Lord of glory! Amen**

## 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: Eternal God, your only Son suffered death upon the cross to bring the world salvation. Accept the praise and thanksgiving we offer you this day, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

### EUCHARISTIC 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."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: 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 break 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 #8:

Celebrant: Lord, we died with you on the cross.

**All: Now we are raised to new life.**

Celebrant: We were buried in your tomb.

**All: Now we share in your resurrection.**

Celebrant: Live in us, that we may live in you.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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 of life, bring us to the glory of the resurrection promised in this Easter sacrament.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. 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 today:**

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Susan Snelling

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:**

Anita & Family; Matthew Canning; Bill Canning; Quinn, Cass & Cory; Donna, Ray, Nancy & Chris Wilson; Ida; Cecilia Mowat & Family; Lorraine Whitwell & Family; Celeste & parents; 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 Kyoto (The Nippon Sei Ko Kai)

**In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:**

Transfiguration