

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday, April 7, 2021

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	Dave Flavelle	
Sidesperson Co-ord.	Kevin LeMoine	(705) 252-6528
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Easter Wednesday Service

April 7, 2021

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Celebrant: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

Celebrant: Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

People: We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

Celebrant: God has claimed us as his own.

People: He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. 1 Corinthians 5.7–8

RESPONSORY

Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting? Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Death is swallowed up in victory. The trumpet will sound and the dead shall be raised. Where, O death, is your sting? We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed. Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting?

THE PSALMS

Psalm 97

The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Fire goes before him and consumes his adversaries on every side.

His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory.

All worshippers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols; all gods bow down before him.

Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice, because of your judgements, O God.

For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

The LORD loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.

People: Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF MICAH 7:7-15

But as for me, I will look to the LORD, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.

Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me.

I must bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he takes my side and executes judgement for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall see his vindication.

Then my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, 'Where is the LORD your God?' My eyes will see her downfall; now she will be trodden down like the mire of the streets.

A day for the building of your walls! In that day the boundary shall be far extended.

In that day they will come to you from Assyria to Egypt, and from Egypt to the River, from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain.

But the earth will be desolate because of its inhabitants, for the fruit of their doings.

Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock that belongs to you, which lives alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land; let them feed in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old.

As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, show us marvellous things.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN (15:1-11)

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

I am the vine – you are the branches – abide in me

The Gospel reading for today is a portion of teaching by Jesus in John’s Gospel that comes after the last supper and the washing of the disciples feet on Maundy Thursday and before Jesus’ final prayer before he is arrested. The narrative around the washing of the disciples feet ends with Simon Peter asking Jesus “Lord, where are you going?” and him replying, “Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterwards” (John 13:36). It is then followed by Jesus then saying to the disciples “And you know the way to the place where I am going” and Thomas rather confused response, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus then replies, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him” (John 14:4-7). Later on in John 14 Jesus talks about the gift of the Holy Spirit as a completion of his work and he gives them a benediction, “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.”

Each of these seemingly contradictory statements of Jesus have as their underpinning the idea of the relationship between the disciples and Jesus and thus to the Father and to the Holy Spirit. Each of these farewells and promises has at its core the continued relationship of Jesus to the disciples through the presence of the Father and the promise of the Holy Spirit. And, it of them, is drawn through with a common thread of knowing and being known within the context of love.

Jesus then uses a strongly agrarian image or picture – that of a vine and branches – to bring the point home in a way that the disciples would have easily understood. Each of them would have grown up in a household or community where vines were tended and grapes were grown. Each of them would have, in their lifetime, seen somebody look after a vineyard and may have participated in the care of a vine themselves.

They would have understood the basic principle that a vine starts with the stock plant. They would have understood that the stock plant was the ultimate determinant of the quality of the growth in the spring and the quality of the grapes or fruit that matured over the summer. They would have understood that all the new shoots would have to be trained over a trestle. That after harvest in the late summer or early fall the shoots it

gave off in the spring that were productive would be pruned back as the vine entered its season of dormancy in the winter and that those shoots that were unproductive in the fruiting season would have been cut off in order to encourage the growth of the rest of the vine that was productive.

The central word that Jesus uses to communicate the nature of relationship required of the disciples is “abide”. The word abide – *meinate* – could also be translated “remain” or “continue” or tarry and is used in other contexts in the Gospel associated with being in a house (Matthew 10) or waiting with another for a final moment, like death (Matthew 26), in the case of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. It carries with it a sense of being fully contained and fully present.

Jesus invites the disciples to abide with him as he already abides with them – “Abide in me as I abide in you” – because Jesus invites each of us to enter into a relationship with him that he has already established with us. He has taken the initiate to abide – to be full present – for us – and invites us to be fully present/abide with him.

It is clear that such abiding has an outcome – “Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me” – that is only possible because of the state of the relationship between Jesus and his followers. That without that relationship of abiding/remaining/being fully present there is no capacity in us to produce the fruit of the kingdom, namely love – “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.” But, in contrast, this is a given and automatic outcome for those who do abide and it is not due to their own effort or capacity.

But there are two subsidiary outcomes. The first is answered prayer – “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” – because the prayer of the one who is fully present in Christ knows the desired outcome or intention is of the one in whom they abide. And the second is joy - I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. - that comes from a life and purpose that is full and fulfilled by the sense of complete attentiveness or abiding.

Pray God that as we journey through this Easter season – even if we might feel so abandoned and alone in our fear and despair - that we might find our comfort in knowing Christ abides in us and invites us to abide in him.

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

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

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

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

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

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

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

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.

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

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

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.

We prayer for the Amy Pauley and her family as the mourning the passing of her father and for the family of Rena Marie Sears as they mourn her passing.

THE COLLECT

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.

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.

DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NOTICES

BLESSING:

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.

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Assisting Rev. Simon today:

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Simon Bell
Video: Simon Bell/David Paradis

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

Carl; Mark & Erin; Amy Pauley & Family; Wendy; Adara; Jean Glionna; Sarah & Dee; Kaus; Brenda Jessem; Shirley; Bobby Paradis & Family; Marg Thomas & Family; Lyon's Family; Jodine; Lynda Raye; Frank Kilravey; Rhonda; Sherrie O.; Jane Tutty; Edison's Family & his Teacher who has Covid; Bill and Ann Canning; Tanya North; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Theresa & Pete; Jaxon Croft; Ron & Jane Lewis; Michelle & Ian Sinclair; Sean; Kevin H.; Sophia L; Amanda Stewart; Kathryn

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:

Marilyn Foley; Kadeem Broomes; Diane M.; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Mark & Winnie; Staff and Residence at Roberta Place; Brian W.; Cecilia Mowat; Jen Galicinski; Sheri Scott; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Stephanie; Fr. Murray; Amy P. & Family; Marg Abbott; Livia & Neil Purcell; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; Garn Mennell; Margaret & Gordon Kennedy; Paul & Rose McIntyre; Jim Tomkins; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Martin & Stephen Bertelsen; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Diocese of Bendigo (Australia)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Christ Church, Waubaushene