

# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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*Wednesday, August 11, 2021*

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# Wednesday Service

August 11, 2021

11:00 a.m.

## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

**Celebrant:** Lord, open our lips,

**People:** **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Celebrant:** O God, make speed to save us.

**People:** **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**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. Amen.**

*I am the living bread which came down from heaven, says the Lord;  
anyone who eats this bread will live for ever. John 6.51*

## VENITE

### PSALM 95.1–7

**Celebrant:** Come, let us sing to the Lord;

**People:** **let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

**Celebrant:** Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

**People:** **and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**Celebrant:** For the Lord is a great God,

**People:** **and a great king above all gods.**

**Celebrant:** In his hand are the caverns of the earth,

**People:** **and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**Celebrant:** The sea is his for he made it,

**People:** **and his hands have moulded the dry land.**

**Celebrant:** Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

**People:** **and kneel before the Lord our maker.**

**Celebrant:** For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

**People:** **Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

## THE PSALM

### PSALM 101

**Celebrant:** I will sing of mercy and justice;

**People:** **to you, O Lord, will I sing praises.**

**Celebrant:** I will strive to follow a blameless course; oh, when will you come to me?

**People:** **I will walk with sincerity of heart within my house.**

**Celebrant:** I will set no worthless thing before my eyes;

**People:** **I hate the doers of evil deeds; they shall not remain with me.**

**Celebrant:** A crooked heart shall be far from me;

**People:** **I will not know evil.**

**Celebrant:** Those who in secret slander their neighbours I will destroy;

**People:** **those who have a haughty look and a proud heart I cannot abide.**

**Celebrant:** My eyes are upon the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me,

**People:** **and only those who lead a blameless life shall be my servants.**

**Celebrant:** Those who act deceitfully shall not dwell in my house,

**People:** **and those who tell lies shall not continue in my sight.**

**Celebrant:** I will soon destroy all the wicked in the land,

**People:** **that I may root out all evildoers from the city of the Lord.**

**People:** **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. Amen.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### THE READINGS

#### A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS 21:15-26

After these days we got ready and started to go up to Jerusalem. Some of the disciples from Caesarea also came along and brought us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we were to stay. When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us warmly. The next day Paul went with us to visit James; and all the elders were present.

After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. When they heard it, they praised God. Then they said to him, 'You see, brother, how many thousands of believers there are among the Jews, and they are all zealous for the law. They have been told about you that you teach all the Jews living among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, and that you tell them not to circumcise their children or observe the customs.

What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. So do what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow. Join these men, go through the rite of purification with them, and pay for the shaving of their heads. Thus, all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself observe and guard the law.

But as for the Gentiles who have become believers, we have sent a letter with our judgement that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled<sup>[a]</sup> and from fornication.’ Then Paul took the men, and the next day, having purified himself, he entered the temple with them, making public the completion of the days of purification when the sacrifice would be made for each of them.

The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

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

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.”’

He said to him, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.’ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’

Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

The Gospel of Christ.

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

## SERMON

Jesus says, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” This is a familiar saying. And we can overlook the challenge and the divine promise. For the love of God, we get everything when we give everything away.

It’s a hard lesson for everyone if we consider: what does Jesus mean by “rich”? We can be rich in money and objects – like the young ruler. And we can be rich in other ways – like the disciples. We’ve got riches in talent, health, ability, time, and social esteem. We’ve all got gifts. And we can keep them to ourselves. We can hoard our treasure. The good news is that we can give our riches away – spend them on others – for the love of God and each other. What’s good about this?

Ultimate freedom. We get salvation. Jesus Christ makes this possible. He gives everything away – even his life – for the love of the world. And God resurrects and restores. And more than this, God generates more life and gifts than we can ask or imagine. The gift of salvation is a release from all the ties that bind us and prevent us from being with God in love and truth and beauty. What often holds us back are variations of ego desires: “I want this thing...I want to control that...I want to own more.” The ego drives greed, jealousy, and hunger for power and control. We can forget who the true ruler of the world is.

Here and now, this world is God’s Kingdom. Everything is part of God’s story. We are actors in God’s drama. We can forget this and try to take the lead. But the star actor is Jesus Christ. By following him, we learn the way to act in God’s story. And today, Jesus says to give all we got for the love of God and each other. The biggest hurdle is often the fear of losing – the fear of giving up our riches.

We’re not alone. The rich young ruler is “shocked” and he “grieves.” He walks away. He can’t follow. This way is too hard – giving it all up. The disciples are “astounded.” They wonder, “Then who can be saved?”

Jesus is compassionate. He is quick to tell the disciples that: “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” For Jesus Christ, God’s Word made flesh – giving everything up for the love of all is possible. And he makes it possible for us. It takes God’s help. And we also have each other. In Christ, in the world here and now, we have billions of sisters, brothers, mothers, and fathers.

Jesus understands that we can hold back, even if it hurts us. When he looks at the rich young ruler, we are told that Jesus “loved him.” This hard teaching is not meant to hurt or to destroy the rich. It’s meant to tell everyone what is necessary for salvation: that is, being free from all that stops us from embracing the way of love and trust in God.

Most of us are not considered wealthy rulers. We’re like the disciples. We’ve got a portion of things and we work in the community. The disciples left everything to follow Jesus. And the rich young ruler could not. Is there something in between?

The disciples *left* everything, but did they *give* everything? Peter will deny Jesus during his trial and execution. At this time, Peter does not *give* his trust or his voice to God. He walks away in fear at the greatest hour of Jesus’ need. But Peter will also repent, turn back to God, recommit himself, and become the rock of the church. Like the disciples, we’re always learning to be freer, more giving, and more loving with God and each other. And, the good news is that, in Jesus, God makes this journey of salvation possible.

**All:            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

### **Litany 6**

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

**Celebrant:** 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.**

**Celebrant:** 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.**

**Celebrant:** 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.**

**Celebrant:** 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.**

**Celebrant:** 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.**

**Celebrant:** For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**People:** **Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

**All:** **Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love, joy, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. 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:

**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.**

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## Assisting today:

**Celebrant/Preacher:** Amy Pauley

**Video:** Amy Pauley/David Paradis

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

Carrie Snow; Jordan Downing; Stuart and Andrew Lynn and family; Zielke Family; Amanda Rose; Mark Ralston; Talis & Derek; Darlene Jessem; Jim Tomkins; Ray Wilson; Judy Virtanen; Lawrence Bornais; Roxanne Reid & Family & The Goodyer Family; Garn Mennell; Jane & Ron Lewis; Lorraine Whitwell; Doreen; Alan Proudlove; Anthony Sacco; Sally Rees & her mom; Michelle Sinclair, Mom and Family; Livia & Neil Purcell; Adesh; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Sheri Scott; Audrey Moody; Wally Raymond; Christine; Kim; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wendy; Brenda Jessem; Shirley; Lynda Raye; Kilravey; Rhonda; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean; 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:**

Sophia L; Jane Tutty; Jean Glionna; Dorothy & Chuck; Kevin Hamann; Laura Johnston; Marilyn Foley; Kadeem Broomes; Diane M.; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Stephanie; Fr. Murray; Marg Abbott; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; 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:**

Diocese of Dunkwa-on-Offin (Ghana)

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

Parroquia San Esteban