ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday, August 18, 2021

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People's Warden	Peter Beckett	(705) 733-1741
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Prayer Chain	Gail Jones	(705) 726-4221
Chancel Co-ordinator	Diane MacCormack	(705) 734-2957
Flower Chancel	Sharon Zacchigna	(705) 252-0731
Music Directors	Gayle Haley	(705) 728-3859
	Craig Snider	(705) 722-1117
Custodians	Chanda Farrell	(705) 828-7186
	Dave Flavelle	
Sidesperson Co-ord.	Kevin LeMoine	(705) 252-6528
Audio/Visual	David Paradis	

Wednesday Service

August 18, 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: People:	Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving 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: People:	For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!	

THE PSALM

PSALM 130	
Celebrant: People:	Out of the depths have I called you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
Celebrant: People:	If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?
Celebrant: People:	For there is forgiveness with you; Therefore, you shall be feared .
Celebrant: People:	I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.
Celebrant: People:	My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.
Celebrant: People:	O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy;
Celebrant: People:	With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.
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 23:23-35

Then he summoned two of the centurions and said, 'Get ready to leave by nine o'clock tonight for Caesarea with two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen. Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and take him safely to Felix the governor.' He wrote a letter to this effect: 'Claudius Lysias to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings.

This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them, but when I had learned that he was a Roman citizen, I came with the guard and rescued him. Since I wanted to know the charge for which they accused him, I had him brought to their council. I found that he was accused concerning questions of their law but was charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment. When I was informed that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him.'

So, the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him during the night to Antipatris. The next day they let the horsemen go on with him, while they returned to the barracks. When they came to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. On reading the letter, he asked what province he belonged to, and when he learned that he was from Cilicia, he said, 'I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive.' Then he ordered that he be kept under guard in Herod's headquarters.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 12:13-27

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?' But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, 'Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.' And they brought one. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperors.' Jesus said to them, 'Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's.' And they were utterly amazed at him.

Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, saying, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. There were seven brothers; the first married and, when he died, left no children; and the second married her and died, leaving no children; and the third likewise; none of the seven left children. Last of all the woman herself died. In the resurrection whose wife will she be? For the seven had married her.'

Jesus said to them, 'Is not this the reason you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong.'

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

This morning we heard, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's."

By this point in Mark's Gospel, the Pharisees were becoming quite frustrated in trying to stop Jesus' growing influence among the people. His ministry was expanding, both in territory and numbers of followers, posing threats to the religious elite's influence.

Jesus' doctrine of obedience to God through love and service, contrasted with the system of rules and laws from which the Pharisees drew their importance. Jesus' appeal to the common people posed an ever-increasing challenge to the Pharisees' control over society, weakening their influence and authority. The Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees, and Scribes were united in their belief that Jesus had to be stopped.

In this passage, a new form of attack was employed by the Pharisees and some Herodians. Instead of discrediting Jesus, they attempted to trap him, not with traditional teaching violations and Jewish law, but by getting him to defy Roman Law. To speak out against the emperor, in this situation, to deny him taxes would be considered a major crime by the Roman rulers. The penalty for such an action would bring a death sentence.

This would accomplish the religious elite's goal of getting rid of Jesus, without their direct involvement which would have aroused protests from Jesus' followers.

Jesus' response, obviously, did not achieve what the Pharisees had hoped for. However, Jesus' statement opened a whole new question that could have been pursued had not the Sadducees jumped in with another trick question to discredit Jesus.

To me, Jesus' statement, to give "to God the things that are God's", leaves us with the question, exactly what are we to give? What does God want from us?

This morning we will affirm our faith using the two Great Commandments. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love others as yourself. What that means to each of us may be quite different because God gives to us, individually, unique gifts in the form of talents, possessions and abilities.

For example, some are blessed with singing voices to praise God – thank you Craig, Gayle, choir and most of the congregation - others, like me were given other talents. Some of these talents or gifts, to mention only a few, may be organizational skills, ability to work with hands to create practical objects or perhaps beautiful art.

Each of us has a gift that we can carry into society that will help fulfill God's purpose. As believers, we have become modern day disciples, and have been given the opportunity, the honour, and the command to carry out God's work today.

What does God want? He wants us to use the gifts given to us to serve those around us and to spread the Gospel message through our words or actions. Think of the hymn "they will know we are Christians by our Love, by our Love". It is that love that God expects us to share with all we are able to, day by day using the talents, possessions and abilities each of us are blessed with.

Remember St. Francis prayer, "it is in giving that we receive".

Let us pray:

Lord grant that we may know that through your love for us, we may have the power to love and serve and in doing so, bring joy and peace to those around us, to ourselves and to you. Amen

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 have broken the tyranny of sin and sent into our hearts the Spirit of your Son. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives 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:	Doug Court
Video:	Doug Court/David Paradis

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

Sylvia Ralston; Amanda Rose; Mark Ralston; 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:

Theresa & Pete; Cecilia Mowat; Tanya Bowskill; 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; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Martin & Stephen Bertelsen; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Diocese of Central Ecuador

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Trinity East (Little Trinity)