

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday, August 4, 2021

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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 4, 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.

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Matthew 4.4

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 82

Celebrant: God takes his stand in the council of heaven;

People: He gives judgement in-the-midst of the gods:

Celebrant: “How long will you judge unjustly,

People: and show favour to the wicked?

Celebrant: Save the weak and the orphan;

People: defend the humble and needy;

Celebrant: Rescue the weak and the poor;

People: deliver them from the power of the wicked.

Celebrant: They do not know, neither do they understand; they go about in darkness;

People: all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

Celebrant: Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,

People: and all of you children of the Most High;

Celebrant: Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,

People: and fall like any prince.”

Celebrant: Arise, O God, and rule the earth,

People: for you shall take all nations for your own.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS 19:1-10

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?’ They replied, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ Then he said, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ They answered, ‘Into John’s baptism.’

Paul said, ‘John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.’ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God. When some stubbornly refused to believe and spoke evil of the Way before the congregation, he left them, taking the disciples with him, and argued daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:34-9:1

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.' And he said to them, 'Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.'

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

Living with God can be amazing, and it can also be tough. It's like living with family or friends. There are going to be good times and rougher times. When we live together, we need ground rules, mutual respect, and the commitment to work through the tough times. In today's gospel, Jesus is telling us what it takes to live together in God's house. And home is the Kingdom of God. What is it like to live in God's house and have Jesus as a housemate, a friend, and a loved one? Can we live God as a housemate?

To live with God, the ultimate ground rule is to act, think, and feel with love. Jesus says, "This is the greatest commandment: Love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And through this, love your neighbor as yourself." This is non-negotiable. But it is not always obvious how to love.

One important aspect of love is mutual respect. Jesus tells us not to be ashamed of him or the gospel. Imagine being ashamed of your loved ones or roommate. It hurts them when we hide them from others. And it hurts us. It's stifling to our souls to not be able to express our true feelings, thoughts, and beliefs. Jesus is asking us to be real. Wherever we are, and whoever we're with, God is not someone to be ashamed of. Loving God and loving the world is good.

The trouble is that the world can shame, entice, and distract us from commitment to our homelife with God. The Kingdom of God is built up in faith. We trust that God will provide the necessities and that, together, we can work toward a just world. That's the challenge. The world is not completely just. There are people who work to provide for themselves and others. This is good. But there are those who work for large bank accounts.

Some billionaires use their money to fly to space. And they ignore others who don't have enough – enough food, health care, or shelter. The driving forces of worldly stockpiling are fear and a lack of faith.

In the Kingdom, in God's house, we are asked to care for one another. It's the central rule. And we are rewarded by the love that is exchanged. It is a transaction of the soul. In God's house, we gain wealth by giving. When we give to one another, we gain in spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts include peace, fortitude, wisdom, piety, and understanding. And all these gifts come through our relationships of care.

When the world "out there" causes us to step away from the Kingdom or even run out on Jesus, we're still loved. Jesus assures us that he'll always come looking for us. He's like a shepherd that leaves 99 sheep behind to search for the one that is lost. God is like a father who welcomes back his disgraceful son with forgiveness, and a joyful banquet. We're always held and returning to God's loving embrace.

Faithfully coming home to God and living with the expectation to love can be challenging. And we're all learning, and we don't do it alone. It is striking that Jesus tells us to take up our crosses and follow him. But, later on, before his death, Jesus does not carry his own cross. Who carries his cross? It is Simon, who is from Cyrene, a city in North Africa. We are told that Simon is just passing by. Whether we are total strangers or intimate partners, we are not commanded to carry our burdens for God all by ourselves. They say, "Many hands make light work." In the Kingdom, God is not our only housemate – we can be loved and supported by each other.

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, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, 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: 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:

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; Sherrie O.; 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 the Dominican Republic

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Chapel of St. James, West Brook