

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

161 Hanmer St. W., Barrie, On L4N 7S1 (705) 721-9528 www.stmargaretbarrie.ca

Email: stmarg@rogers.com

Fax: (705) 721-9455



Wednesday Service

Advent Week 2

December 8, 2021

11:00 a.m. Service

**Wednesday Service
Advent Week 2**

December 8, 2021

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant: Lord, open our lips,

All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Celebrant: O God, make speed to save us.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

All: 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.

Celebrant: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God *Luke 3.4, 6*

CANTICLE 7 ADVENT

Celebrant: My soul waits for the Lord;

People: in his word is my hope.

Celebrant: My soul waits for the Lord;

People: in his word is my hope.

Celebrant: Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

People: In his word is my hope.

Celebrant: There is forgiveness with you; therefore, you shall be feared.

People: In his word is my hope.

Celebrant: My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning.

People: In his word is my hope.

Celebrant: O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy.

People: In his word is my hope.

Celebrant: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. My soul waits for the Lord;

People: in his word is my hope.

THE PSALMS

PSALM 38

Celebrant: O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger;

People: do not punish me in your wrath.

Celebrant: For your arrows have already pierced me,

People: and your hand presses hard upon me.

Celebrant: There is no health in my flesh, because of your indignation;

People: there is no soundness in my body, because of my sin.

Celebrant: For my iniquities overwhelm me;

People: like a heavy burden they are too much for me to bear.

Celebrant: My wounds stink and fester

People: by reason of my foolishness.

Celebrant: I am utterly bowed down and prostrate;

People: I go about in mourning all the day long.

Celebrant: My loins are filled with searing pain;

People: there is no health in my body.

Celebrant: I am utterly numb and crushed;

People: I wail, because of the groaning of my heart.

Celebrant: O Lord, you know all my desires,

People: and my sighing is not hidden from you.

Celebrant: My heart is pounding, my strength has failed me,

People: and the brightness of my eyes is gone from me.

Celebrant: My friends and companions draw back from my affliction;

People: my neighbours stand afar off.

Celebrant: Those who seek after my life lay snares for me;

People: those who strive to hurt me speak of my ruin and plot treachery all the day long.

Celebrant: But I am like the deaf who do not hear,

People: like those who are mute and do not open their mouth.

Celebrant: I have become like one who does not hear,

People: and from whose mouth comes no defence.

Celebrant: For in you, O Lord, have I fixed my hope;

People: you will answer me, O Lord my God.

Celebrant: For I said, "Do not let them rejoice at my expense,

People: those who gloat over me when my foot slips."

Celebrant: Truly, I am on the verge of falling,
People: **and my pain is always with me.**

Celebrant: I will confess my iniquity
People: **and be sorry for my sin.**

Celebrant: Those who are my enemies without cause are mighty,
People: **and many in number are those who wrongfully hate me.**

Celebrant: Those who repay evil for good slander me,
People: **because I follow the course that is right.**

Celebrant: O Lord, do not forsake me;
People: **be not far from me, O my God.**

Celebrant: Make haste to help me,
People: **O Lord of my salvation.**

All: **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

Reading: Revelation 1:17-2.7

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this. As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

‘To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not and have found them to be false. I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then from what you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: **Matthew 23:1-12**

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING MATTHEW

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

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ‘The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in the market-places and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

The Gospel of Christ.

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

SERMON: **Fr. Simon**

Love conquers fear

John, in Revelation 1, describes his visionary encounter with Christ, “When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.” “But”, says John, “he placed his right hand on me saying, “Do not be afraid.” This invitation to “not be afraid” is substantiated by the assurance and comfort to John that God in Christ has always been and holds the fullness of reality in his grasp. That this God of grace and compassion, hope and kindness has done and will always hold and carry us. The entire book of Revelation only makes sense when we start with that basic assumption because rather than driving us to a place of fear it should drive us into that compassionate embrace of God.

The vision then unfolds with an explanation of the mystery of Christ standing with seven stars in his right hand and seven golden lamp stands. It starts with a prophet message to the first of seven churches that form an arch along the northern shores of the Mediterranean Sea and along the back of the coastal mountains that followed two trade routes in Asia Minor. It starts with the church in Ephesus – the anchor point of these two trade routes – with the affirmation of their ability to faithfully toil for the Gospel’s sake and to patiently endure internal and external opposition without giving up. But, as each of these prophetic utterances does, it calls the church back or prompts them to move forward in a particular way, “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.”

As much as we need to be commended for actively living out our faith and making it tangible in the world (good works) and as much as we need to be commended for being faithful, in spite of what we endure from others from within the faith community or outside of it, that is really not the point of our faith. The point of our faith is to embody our love for God and our neighbour as ourselves in response to God’s initiative to first love us.

As Jesus points out in Matthew's Gospel, faith without grace and compassion is simply a burden and a charade. Faith without compassion and solely motivated by the need for self-acceptance and duty, is simply destructive and damaging. For, at its heart, true faith is motivated by an invitation to respond to the compassion of God. As such it does not inflict a burden or place upon us a destructive load; rather it carries us through the harsh realities of life and grants us rest/Sabbath/restoration/healing and wholeness. Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

As terrifying as life might be, as uncertain as our future might appear, as hard as we struggle to get it right, as much as we plug away at being faithful and true, as much as we cower in the midst of holiness, as much as we endure and keep going, as much as we draw on every last ounce of our inner strength so that we will not fail or fall, as much as we carry a burden too hard to bear we need to hear the invitation of Jesus, "Do not be afraid", "come to me" and "find your first love." Those invitations remind us that love overcomes fear, compassion carries us in suffering and mercy offers us new beginnings. That is the heart of faith. Pray this Advent Season that this faith would be rekindled in our lives, this love would set our hearts on fire, this compassion would be the foundation of our action and burn brightly from us as a beacon of hope and mercy for others. Amen

All: Amen

(Time allowed for Silent Reflection.)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Hear, O Israel

All: 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

(In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, "Lord Jesus, come soon!")

Celebrant: O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Celebrant: O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Celebrant: O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Celebrant: O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.
People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Celebrant: O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.
People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Celebrant: O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.
People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Celebrant: O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.
People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

All: Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; 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,

All: 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.
All: Thanks be to God.

NOTICES:

THE 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
All: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

+++++

Service of Morning Prayer taken from the The Book of Alternative Services. Copyright 1985 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Biblical texts taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Assisting today:

Celebrant (online): The Rev. Canon Simon Bell

Celebrant in person: The Rev. Canon Simon Bell

Preacher: Fr. Simon

Video: Fr. Simon/David Paradis

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

Phil & Kathy C.; Cecil Nelson & Family; Cole; Stephen Bertelsen; Martin Bertelsen; Lorraine W.; Sharron Snider; Peter Hubbard; Mark Ralston; Kim Middaugh; Jackson; Sally Smith; Marilyn Lloyd; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Adesh; Brenda Jessem; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean.

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:

Lisa Marie; Sophia L.; Joyce Antony; Pam Rees; Alvin Maynard; Dave Lawrence; Livia & Neil Purcell; Jim Tomkins; 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; Cecilia Mowat; Laura Johnston; Marilyn Foley; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Fr. Murray; 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; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Diocese of Ijebu – North, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lagos Province)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Christ Church, Norwood