

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

February 16, 2022

11:00 a.m. Service

Wednesday Service

February 16, 2022

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer & Communion

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.

Alleluia!

Celebrant: Rejoice and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. *Luke 6.23*

THE PSALMS

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

Reading: 1 John 2:12-17

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF JOHN

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven on account of his name. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young people, because you have conquered the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young people, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live for ever.

The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 10:1-18

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

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

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again, Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the

Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON: Rev. Susan Snelling

In the name of our God
Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier. Amen.

I think it would be fair to say that most of us are well acquainted with the reading from the gospel. Not so much the passage from First John.

What strikes me first is the tone of the writing. It is friendly, reassuring. This is very much in keeping with the image of the Good Shepherd, tending the flock with gentleness and care. Protecting them from harm even to the point of being willing to lay down his/her life for them.

But there is another common theme. In the letter of John it is expressed as "anything this world has to offer – the cravings of the flesh, the cravings of the eye, the boastful pride of life." In the gospel it is pictured as a thief who comes in the night to bring destruction. Or as a hired hand – some one who looks the part but who lacks the necessary commitment. Even in the Psalm for today we heard about liars and deceivers. What is clear from the readings is that there are two competing realities at play. It is up to us to figure out which one is real or which one captures our imagination.

Are we deceived by bright lights, flashing signs, ads on our televisions, on the radio, or in print media, social media trends, values that offer quick and easy solutions to all our problems? They seem so tempting. Those offering them seem so well trained, knowledgeable, and sophisticated. Perhaps one guiding principle should be the less pop and flash – the more genuine the product, idea, technique, or representation.

The simple, by that I mean not complex or complicated, straightforward, humble shepherd is barely worth looking at. Boring, quietly going about their business and yet if we grasp the metaphor of Jesus as our shepherd – knowing that we are loved and cared for is such a wonderful foundation to build our lives on. Knowing our sins have already been forgiven can make such a significant difference to the way we think about and relate to ourselves – to other people and to God. We are getting exactly what we see. Someone who genuinely cares about the job they are doing and who is putting their whole selves into the process. Caring for others with gentleness, protective, going the extra mile without resentment or complaint.

How do we spend our time and energy if we believe these things to be true – that we are loved and forgiven - versus lives lived weighed down by fears and guilt, wondering if anyone could ever love us and anxious about all the things which threaten to overtake us?

It seems as though deception is all around us: from fake news; to lack of faith in science; to schemes devised to take our money; to people pretending to be something other than who they really are. If we put our faith in such things we are bound to be extremely disappointed when we discover the truth.

What God promises us will not disappoint. True relationship which honours who we are – the good, the bad, and the ugly. And asks us always to try to be our best selves – to treat others (that is every other) as we would like to be treated.

That means the other sheep in the fold and even the ones outside of it – for they all belong to God. And just as the shepherd would come looking for us if we strayed, so he/she would go looking for each other sheep. We really are all in this together.

Not in the way we so casually throw that phrase around but in the fact that before God we are all worthy and granted grace. And the sooner we learn to be kind and gracious to everyone else, the sooner God's realm will come to be realized here on earth. With justice will come peace and reconciliation. That is the promise for us to hold on to as we strive to live as those who know God. The One who has existed from the beginning. The One who calls us to overcome all the temptations we face and when we fail calls us to new opportunities for faithfulness, for love, for relationship.

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

Litany #18 A Responsive Intercession

Celebrant: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Celebrant: For all people in their daily life and work;

People: For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

Celebrant: For this community, our country, and the world;

People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Celebrant: For the just and proper use of your creation;
People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Celebrant: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Celebrant: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
People: For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

Celebrant: For Andrew our bishop and Ryscilla our Area Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;
People: For all who serve God in his Church.

Celebrant: For our own needs and those of others. Hear us, Lord;
People: For your mercy is great.

Celebrant: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We will exalt you, O God our king;
People: And praise your name for ever and ever.

Celebrant: We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;
People: Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

People: in your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: Almighty and everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ healed the sick and restored them to wholeness of life, look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your power make whole all peoples and nations; 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,

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

THE BLESSING:

Celebrant: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

NOTICES: Daily Devotions – team of writers at Good Shepherd, St Margaret’s and Trinity – contact Norm Savill nsavill@bell.net to be included or check the parish websites.

Shrove Tuesday – 1st of March – Pancakes to Go – call Beth Steffler the parish office for details

Ash Wednesday – 2nd of March – Signing with Ashes at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in person and on-line services

Lenten Studies Groups;

The “I am’s” in John’s Gospel – for six Thursdays of Lent between 12:00 and 1:00 at St Margaret’s starting on the 3rd of March. In-person in the church and on-line.

Faith in the City: Conversations in Urban Theology – for the six Friday’s of Lent between 12:00 and 1:00 at Trinity starting on the 4th of March. In-person in the church and on-line. Lunch to go.

THE DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless 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; The Rev. Susan Snelling
Video Livestream: David Paradis

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

Ruby & Kirk; Cecilia Mowat & Tanya Bowskill; Rose Court; Kim Middaugh; Lorraine W; Cathy Cole; Vayda; Colleen; Wilma; Barb Semsch; Sally; Daniel Leibovich; Steve & Jade; Donna & Ray Wilson; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Stephen Bertelsen; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Gabrielle & Dom & family; Karyn; Shane & Shelly Finnigan & Families; Rose McIntyre; Rev. Janet Mitchell; Dave & Winnie Fulcher; Cole; Martin Bertelsen; Lorraine W.; Sharron Snider; Peter Hubbard; Sally Smith; Marilyn Lloyd; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; 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:

Donna & Ray Wilson; Mark Ralston; Jackson; Phil & Kathy C.; Bob Anderson; Nancy Perault; Marco Romita & Rose; Sharon Z; Adesh; Lisa Marie; Sophia L.; Joyce Antony; Bill & Cathy Gray; Alvin Maynard; Dave Lawrence; Livia & Neil Purcell; 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; Marilyn Foley; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Wendy Goodyer; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Diocese of Katakwa – The Anglican Church of Kenya

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Diocese of St. Thomas a Becket (Erin Mills South)