

**ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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*Wednesday Service*

February 9, 2022

11:00 a.m. Service

## Wednesday Service

February 9, 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: I am the light of the world, says the Lord. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. *John 8.12.*

### THE PSALMS

**PSALM 81**

Celebrant: Sing with joy to God our strength \*  
**People: and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.**

Celebrant: Raise a song and sound the timbrel, \*  
**People: the merry harp, and the lyre.**

Celebrant: Blow the ram's-horn at the new moon, \*  
**People: and at the full moon, the day of our feast.**

Celebrant: For this is a statute for Israel, \*  
**People: a law of the God of Jacob.**

Celebrant: He laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph, \*  
**People: when he came out of the land of Egypt.**

Celebrant: I heard an unfamiliar voice saying, \*  
**People: "I eased his shoulder from the burden; his hands were set free from bearing the load."**

Celebrant: You called on me in trouble, and I saved you; \*  
**People: I answered you from the secret place of thunder and tested you at the waters of Meribah.**

Celebrant: Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you: \*

**People: O Israel, if you would but listen to me!**

Celebrant: There shall be no strange god among you; \*

**People: you shall not worship a foreign god.**

Celebrant: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, \*

**People: "Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."**

Celebrant: And yet my people did not hear my voice, \*

**People: and Israel would not obey me.**

Celebrant: So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, \*

**People: to follow their own devices.**

Celebrant: Oh, that my people would listen to me! \*

**People: that Israel would walk in my ways!**

Celebrant: I should soon subdue their enemies \*

**People: and turn my hand against their foes.**

Celebrant: Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, \*

**People: and their punishment would last for ever.**

Celebrant: But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat \*

**People: and satisfy him with honey from the rock.**

**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:** Romans 12:1-8

### **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body, we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 8:12-20

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN**

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

Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’ Then the Pharisees said to him, ‘You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid.’ Jesus answered, ‘Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.

You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgement is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.’ Then they said to him, ‘Where is your Father?’ Jesus answered, ‘You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.’<sup>20</sup> He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

The Gospel of Christ.

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

**SERMON: Rev. Canon Simon Bell**

#### **An appropriate response to mercy**

Romans 12 begins, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters.” When we read Paul’s letters to the churches it is always important to ask, “What is the “therefore” there for?” The therefore indicates a shift in focus from the theological and Biblical reflection of Paul to the actual ethics – the practical working out of our faith. Paul has just finished a theological reflection on the mercy of God and wants his readers to say, “because I have received the mercy of God this is how I will live.”

Firstly, Paul wants us to give ourselves wholly and utterly to God as an act of worship – “present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” So often we think of worship as music, and if we are somewhat informed, liturgy. But worship is way more than that. Worship is everything I am, I do, I think, I say – it is my entirety given to God. And worship is costly – it involves sacrifice – the complete and utter surrender of ourselves to God.

The BCP communion service ends with these words, “And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee. And although we are unworthy, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.”

In terms of Paul's theology in Romans it is perfectly placed as a response to having received the mercy and grace of God in communion we are compelled to offer ourselves completely and utterly and sacrificially to God as worship. There are some key words in there: reasonable – a faith worked out says it is reasonable to give of myself; holy – the same root as holistic and completely given over to God; living – faith leads to live in all its fullness offered to God.

Secondly, Paul wants us to be transformed in contrast to be conformed. That word conformed can also read as molded – like a jelly. It carries with it the connotation of giving up our will to the world. But transformation is about the renewing of our minds, so we think differently, have different priorities, a different perspective on reality. A fresh outlook that looks in faith to see where God is at work in order to join in with what God is doing. God's work is described as good, acceptable and perfect. Goodness is the balance of love and completeness/wholeness. Acceptable carries the idea of what is God's intended purpose for us as humans – to find our vocation in our humanity renewed and restored. Perfection, again, carries a sense of completeness or wholeness or restoration or healing or fullness.

Finally, Paul wants us to think of ourselves with humility – “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.” What is interesting is the way Paul thinks of humility in relationship to others and, specifically in this case, in relationship to others in the life of the church. Here Paul introduces to us that concept of the church as a body that dominates his theology on unity in his letter to the church in Corinth. The key here is that we recognise our place in the life of the church in relationship to others and not elevate ourselves above others, but see ourselves as an intricate part of a whole playing our part in support of the ministry of the full body of Christ.

The importance is that when we know we are here solely by the mercy and grace of God and that the ministry we are each called to is exercised within the context of that mercy and grace then we are humble enough to recognise that this is true of each and every one of us irrespective of what we do in the life of the church. As such, none of us deserves to be here. None of us deserves to exercise our gifts ahead of each other. None of us takes precedence or is of greater value. None of us is the fullness of the faith or the church. But all of us are called into ministry through the mercy and grace of God. And all of us are part of this organic community of faith that is on this journey of renewed commitment, transformation and humility together.

**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:** Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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,

**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](mailto:nsavill@bell.net) to be included or check the parish websites.

We are going **back to in-person**.

**Vestry** – Trinity on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February @12:00 and St Margaret's on the 28 Feb at 12:00.

**Lent Madness** - Looking for a fun and informative way to spend Lent while learning more about some great heroes and examples of the Christian faith? Want to learn the difference between Hilary of Poitiers and Emma of Hawaii? How about Lent Madness, which copies the bracket format of pro sports in a series of daily matches between saints. Each day during Lent you can learn about two famous Christians, then go online and vote for your favourite saint in each pairing. Only one will win the Golden Halo!

To learn more about Lent Madness 2022, and to play along, send an email to Fr. Michael at [madpadre@gmail.com](mailto:madpadre@gmail.com).

**Shrove Tuesday** – March 1<sup>st</sup>

**Ash Wednesday** – March 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Lent Study** – Faith in the City – Each Friday at 12:00 at Trinity.

## THE DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

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**Assisting today:**

Celebrant (online):       The Rev. Canon Simon Bell  
Celebrant (in-church):   The Rev. Canon Simon Bell  
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:**

Ruby & Kirk; Joan McDonald; Cecilia Mowat & Tanya Bowskill; Rose Court; Kim Middaugh; The Fitzmaurice Family; Lorraine W; Cathy Cole; Vayda; Colleen; Wilma; Barb Semsch; Marco Romita & Rose; Sally; Daniel Leibovich; Steve & Jade; Donna & Ray Wilson; Bob Anderson; Nancy Perault; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Stephen Bertelsen; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Gabrielle & Dom & family; Samantha Wright; Karyn; Shane & Shelly Finnigan & Families; Rose McIntyre; Rev. Janet Mitchell; Dave & Winnie Fulcher; Phil & Kathy C.; Cole; Martin Bertelsen; Lorraine W.; Sharron Snider; Peter Hubbard; Mark Ralston; Jackson; 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:**

Sharon Z; Adesh; Lisa Marie; Sophia L.; Joyce Antony; Bill & Cathy Gray; Pam Rees; 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 North Karamoja (Uganda)

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

Sisterhood of St. John Divine