

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Service

July 6, 2022

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11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

THE GREETING: Rev. Susan Snelling

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Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Almighty God,

People: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**KYRIE: Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

THE COLLECT

All: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of your children we do also for him. Give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, but lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE PSALMS

Psalm 12

Leader: Help, LORD, for no one is faithful anymore;

People: those who are loyal have vanished from the human race.

Leader: Everyone lies to their neighbor;

People: they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts.

Leader: May the LORD silence all flattering lips

People: and every boastful tongue—

Leader: those who say, “By our tongues we will prevail;

People: our own lips will defend us—who is lord over us?”

Leader: “Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the LORD.

People: “I will protect them from those who malign them.”

Leader: And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible,
People: **like gold refined seven times.**

Leader: You, LORD, will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever from the wicked,
People: **who freely strut about when what is vile is honored by the human race.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Romans 9:1-18

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Paul's Anguish Over Israel

I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised!^[a] Amen.

God's Sovereign Choice

It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 23:27-39

(All stand for the Gospel)

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew

People: **Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ**

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. And you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started!

“You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? Therefore, I am sending you prophets and sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. And so, upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come on this generation.

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The Gospel of Christ.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Susan Snelling

God who calls us into relationship, may my words and the thoughts in our hearts and minds be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

When I was a young child, I went to see Godspell in Toronto. I was mesmerized and have never forgotten it. From Jesus in his Superman shirt to the separating of the goats and the sheep, to the vaudeville act of John the Baptist and Jesus, it was powerful and has been part of the foundation of my faith.

Godspell is based on the Gospel of Matthew and one of the most striking parts was this passage we read today. Jesus is surrounded by the Pharisees - all very self-righteous as opposed to the maverick Jesus. But then he calls them out in a loud voice, in a very animated fashion saying they are hypocrites, fools, snakes, a viper's brood. Wondering how they will avoid being condemned to hell? Jesus looks and sounds angry.

As a child I found this paradoxical. On the surface, the Pharisees are the good guys, maintaining the tradition, following the law. So why is Jesus so angry with them?

Turns out there is more to life than following the rules. Sometimes rules are open to interpretation. The spirit of the law versus the rule of the law. I understood this explanation as a child would. But like Paul when I grew up - I had to put aside childish things and learn what was really going in this encounter from an adult or mature point of view. It is very nuanced. This relationship between Jesus and the Pharisees.

Often in the gospels, the Pharisees are portrayed as the bad guys. In their efforts to be law abiding citizens of the Kingdom of God they come across as overzealous, misunderstanding what God required of them. If this is the case, Jesus is the Knight in shining armour riding in to set everything straight. To put the Pharisees in their place and develop a new and different religious system.

But the situation is not that black and white. The Pharisees are neither good nor bad. They are human. Jesus has not come to topple the Pharisees. Jesus has come to speak in a new and different way about the Kingdom of God, about love, about our role and relationship to God and to the unfolding of the Kingdom. Jesus yearns for all people to be moved and transformed by his message. The Pharisees, the Samaritans, the Gentiles and his fellow Jews.

Jesus may have been angry or frustrated. He may have been tired of the traps set by the Pharisees and the questions they asked him. He may have been irked by their self satisfaction - thinking they were right, and he was a sinner.

I think Jesus is disappointed and sad, especially at the end, when he speaks about wanting to gather the people of Jerusalem up as a hen gathers her chicks - to protect them, comfort and reassure them. It is hard to gather in a pompous know it all. They are very resistant. It is much easier to gather in those who know themselves to be in need.

The message of Jesus to the Pharisees is one that has echoed throughout they history of the people of Israel and continues to puzzle people today.

What does God require of a faithful follower?

Is God pleased with our lavish shows of piety? With our “good” behaviour? With our words proclaiming our best behaviour? Time and again the answer is the same.

No - this is not what God wants from us.

God wants a contrite heart; God wants our best efforts to be faithful to our call to love God with all that we have and all that we are and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves; God wants us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

There is no pretense in these behaviours. They are authentic, messy, difficult. We have good intentions, and we fail to live up to them sometimes. We can be misunderstood, awkward, appear as though we are lost or unengaged. But our efforts are genuine, and they are often at odds with what others expect or they are rejected.

Our motives are pure. In the letter to the Romans, Paul reminds us of this truth as well. He says, “It is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring.” That is the inheritors of that promise- to be God’s people. He goes on to say that it does not depend on our desire or our effort.

The promise depends on God’s mercy and God’s grace.

Indeed, Paul quotes from Exodus 33:19, where God says,

I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.

It is not a competition nor is it a popularity contest. We cannot outdo one another because we are all beloved children. All unique and valued.

We often speak about God wiping our past away and I think for most of us that has to do with forgiveness and having our sins removed from us. But God does not sift through separating our good deeds from our bad deeds. God wipes among our pasts. None of us has bragging rights about all the great things we did just as none of us is tarnished by our past. We can't have it both ways. God receives each of us as we are, and God blesses who God will bless independent of our thoughts and effort.

God calls us into relationship that is real. A work in progress - based on love for each other. Ideally, we have everyone's best interests at heart - we want others to grow and be transformed along with us. The reality of this may seem unlikely at best, however, this is not our concern either. We are not called to strategize all the salvation of the world - we are called to proclaim the Good News and to live it out in our lives, in our communities. To love God - to serve God.

These texts serve as reminders for us to keep on the path of self-awareness and to keep aligning our priorities with God's priorities. I am reminded of a study group we had several years ago. The premise of one session was that we are part of God's story. Some people were surprised by this having taken the opposite view that God is part of our story.

Who is the Creator of our world? Much as we would like to think that we create our own opportunities or that we are the author of our own destiny - the truth is God is using us to create history. We may be able to influence that by our co-operation or lack thereof but make no mistake. - God seeks our co-operation in the unfolding of heaven here on earth.

Let us pray.

God of compassion and grace, we thank you for including us in your story. Guide us as we strive to follow your will for us. Grant us courage and wisdom to love our neighbours and to serve you above all other things. Amen.

People: Amen

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (#4 Litany)

(In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, "**Lord, hear and have mercy.**")

Leader: We pray for all who confess the name of Christ; fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear and have mercy.**

Leader: We pray for those whose lives are bound in mutual love, and for those who live in celibacy; be their joy and their strength.

People: **Lord, hear and have mercy.**

Leader: For all in danger, for those who are far from home, prisoners, exiles, victims of oppression; grant them your salvation.

People: **Lord, hear and have mercy.**

Leader: For all who are facing trials and difficulties, for those who are sick and those who are dying; show them your kindness and mercy.

People: Lord, hear and have mercy.

Leader: We pray for one another; may we always be united in service and love.

People: Lord, hear and have mercy.

Leader: We pray to be forgiven our sins and set free from all hardship, distress, want, war and injustice.

People: Lord, hear and have mercy.

Leader: May we discover new and just ways of sharing the goods of the earth, struggling against exploitation, greed, or lack of concern, may we all live by the abundance of your mercies and find joy together.

People: Lord, hear and have mercy.

Leader: May we be strengthened by our communion with all Christ's saints.

People: Lord, hear and have mercy. Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

(Silence is kept.)

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

People: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE PEACE:

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also, with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

All: God of heaven and earth, receive our sacrifice of praise, and strengthen us for the perfect freedom of your service, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER #5:

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do.

In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name, as we say,

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: we give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cared for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected.

Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread and share in the life of the family of your children.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom.

We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People: **Glory to you for ever and 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.**

BREAKING OF BREAD #2:

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: **We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

LAMB OF GOD:

All: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

THE COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

All: **God of heaven and earth, receive our sacrifice of praise, and strengthen us for the perfect freedom of your service, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

THE DOXOLOGY:

All: **Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask of imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

NOTICES:

BLESSING:

Officiant: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour and grant us peace.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Assisting today:

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Susan Snelling

Video: Kevin Hamann

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

The Bertelsen Family; Maggie Prentice; Gail Jones; Boutier family; Judy & Don; Frances & Farrell; Arthur; Toby; Brody; Lequita Adkins; Peggy Russell; Linda; Anthony Stone; Judy Hill; Ida; Lynn Venkat; Shirley Hatch; Edna Goyette; Frances McInnis; Ida; Cecilia Mowat; Stephanie; Alvin Maynard; Nova; Irene; Kayla; Kim Middaugh; Sally; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Karyn; Sharron Snider; Peter Hubbard; Sally Smith; Marilyn Lloyd.

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:

Rev. Janet Mitchell; Matthew Canning; Brenda; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Donna, Ray, Nancy & Chris Wilson; Lorraine Whitwell; John; Celeste & parents; Colleen; Stephen Bertelsen; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Derek; Sean; Rose McIntyre; Vayda; Barb Semsch; Rose Court; Phil & Kathy C.; Nancy Perault; Sharon Z; Adesh; Lisa Marie; Joyce Antony; Bill & Cathy Gray; Dave Lawrence; Livia & Neil Purcell; Sheila Green; Carrie Snow; 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; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Wendy Goodyer; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Diocese of Manchester (England)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

St. George, Utopia

Pass The Word

July 6, 2022

Men's Breakfast

Please join us at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday the 3rd of August for our monthly men's breakfast at the Breakfast House on Bayfield Street. Please contact Canon Simon at priest-stmargaretbarrie@toronto.anglican.ca for more information or to join the breakfast via Zoom.

Summer Camp Supplies

Just a reminder that for the next couple of weeks we are looking for jar lids and tin cans (washed with labels removed please). Please just put them in a bag and leave on table outside my office. Many thanks. Colleen

Summer Day Camp Volunteers

We are full for this year's camp. If you would like to volunteer to help with the camp for the week of July 25th-29th please speak to Rev. Susan. We can always use more hands to assist. Thank you.

Effect Hope

"Effect Hope" (Leprosy Mission) continues to collect stamps. Thank you to St. Margaret's. Keep up the worthwhile work. Please mind your stamp borders (1/4" surround borders needed). There is a sample shown on the Leprosy Envelopes on the Anglican Bulletin Board in front of the office. Thank you for your help to

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.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Sunday service.

Rhubarb

If anyone has rhubarb, that they would like to donate to the church, we would appreciate receiving it for pie making for our Christmas Bazaar. It can be placed in the freezer in the kitchen. Thank you.

Messy Church

Our next Messy Church will resume in September. Fun and fellowship for families. Crafts, story time, music, and prayers, simple supper. For more information contact Rev. Susan.

Movie Nights

We are going to alternate between Friday and Thursday nights for movies as we have some who would like to come out but can't make it on Fridays.

Thursday, **July 21**, 7:00 p.m. - Movie – **"Did You Hear About the Morgans?"** A comedy starring Hugh Grant, Sarah Jessica Parker, Sam Elliot, Mary Steenburgen.

*****We would really appreciate donations to the foodbank for Movie Nights.*****

Book Club

We will resume book club in September.

If you would like more information, please contact Michelle: michelle_e_sinclair@yahoo.ca OR 705-737-9895. Please feel welcome to join us even if you have not read the book.

Covid Update

We have returned to the Green Phase in our Diocesan response to Covid. This means that all restrictions have now been dropped including wearing of masks, physical distancing, sharing the Common Cup and hospitality around food. This means that we will need to exercise our own discretion and care and that we will need to respect the choices that others make. We will do our utmost to retain a safe and healthy space for worship and community activities. We will reintroduce the Common Cup for the Eucharist and coffee hour after services in June once we have ironed out some of the logistics of what that will take. Proof of vaccination will still be a requirement for those participation in leadership and ministry.

Covid Shot Update

Just a reminder that to be a volunteer at the church you must have your COVID immunization shots. If you have already told us of your first two shots, thank you. If you have had any others since your 2nd shot, can you please bring in your confirmation showing the dates so we can update your record. Once again, thank you so much for volunteering to help our church.

STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL NEWS FLASH!!! APRIL 22'

The month of April showed an increase in Sunday attendance. We saw an increase in envelopes offerings as a result. Even though we closed the gap in April we have fallen farther behind YTD as is reflected in the numbers, below. Please help us if you can. Your generosity can make a difference!

Budgeted PAG & Envelope as of April 30th, 2022

\$59,010

Actual PAG & Envelope as of April 30th, 2022

\$48,556

Revenue Shortfall as of April 30th, 2022

(\$10,454)

Easter Offerings Update

2022	\$4,230
2021	\$2,625

Very positive results for this Easter over Covid Easter last year.

Thank you from your Stewardship Committee