

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday, July 7, 2021

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Music Directors	Gayle Haley	(705) 728-3859
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Custodians	Chanda Farrell	(705) 828-7186
	Dave Flavelle	
Sidesperson Co-ord.	Kevin LeMoine	(705) 252-6528
Audio/Visual	David Paradis	

Wednesday Service

July 7, 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.

The Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor and release to the captives. Luke 4.18

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 PSALMS

Psalm 13

Celebrant: How long, O Lord? will you forget me for ever?

People: how long will you hide your face from me?

Celebrant: How long shall I have perplexity in my mind, and grief in my heart, day after day?

People: how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

Celebrant: Look upon me and answer me, O Lord my God;

People: give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

Celebrant: Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"

People: and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

Celebrant: But I put my trust in your mercy;

People: my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

Celebrant: I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt with me richly;

People: I will praise the name of the Lord Most High.

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

THE READINGS

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS 10:1-16

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius.' He stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it, Lord?' He answered, 'Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.' When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.' The voice said to him again, a second time, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE 24:13-35

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ He asked them, ‘What things?’

They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening, and the day is now nearly over.’ So, he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

HOW LONG

Psalm 13, Acts 10:1-16, Luke 24:13-35

The Psalms are a wonderful demonstration of human emotion and resolve. In contrast to the “why” question that dominates so much of life, this is the “How long” question. “How long” is the repeated refrain of Psalm 13 – How long before you remember me? How long before you make yourself present for me? How long must I live with confusion and grief? How long will these people take advantage of me and get the better of me? How long. It really is a plea for resolve – “I wish this would stop!”

This is a such a human question when we are in the midst of a situation that seems to have no resolve – a relationship that has gone bad and we don't have the resources to tolerate any longer; suffering and discomfort that seem to persist for ever; grief and the pain of loss that seems to have no resolve or no "closure"; the drudgery of going from one bad situation followed by another; the feeling that we are trapped in a never ending cycle that repeats itself day-in and day-out.

The Psalm then moves in a prayer in vs. 3 - "Look upon me and answer me." Give me a glimmer of hope and help me see the light at the end of the tunnel – "give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death." This is the simple prayer of one desperate for a faint glimmer of hope that things will turn a corner or find resolve. The fear, of course, is that others will look at us in our "pathetic state" and rejoice or find humour in our plight – that we would become the object of ridicule and contempt. Or that those who wish us harm will turn around and tell us that we deserve to be in this position or see it as a victory for themselves, "You deserve you."

But like most of the Psalms there is a turning point where the writer recognizes who God is and that we are still called to have faith in God's faithfulness in spite of the circumstances of life, "But I put my trust in your mercy; my heart is joyful because of your saving help. I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt with me richly; I will praise the name of the Lord Most High."

Firstly, the Psalmist recognizes that life's circumstances are not a reflection on the nature of God. God is by nature merciful – just as much as God is steadfast in love and gracious towards us. My circumstances are no measure of the nature of God, even though I can honestly feel like the mess I am in is God's doing and God's responsibility to resolve. It is okay to say in one breath "will you forget me forever?" and articulating that it feels like God has abandoned me, while still knowing deep within myself that God is merciful to me. It is okay to saying that it feels like God is avoiding me - "how long will you hide your face from me?" – and at the same time knowing that God has "dealt with me richly". It is okay to say that I am confused., in grief or feel like people get the better of me, while still saying "my heart is joyful because of God's saving help."

The Psalms play a very important part in our faith life – they encourage us to be honest about our emotions and with our life circumstances. But they are meant to do more than that. They are there to inspire faith in us irrespective of life's circumstances. They are there to help us get perspective and to help us see the big picture of God at work in our world irrespective of how we feel in the moment and irrespective of how all-encompassing or hopeless our situation might feel. They are there to remind us of the consistency of God's mercy grace and compassion – everlasting love – that carries us through the worst of life, the depth of our emotion and those situations that seem to never have a resolve or an end – the "how long" situations of life. Pray God that as we wait for a resolve to life that we might find new hope in God's faithfulness and compassion in-the-midst of our "unresolvable" trails.

People: 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 9 Morning

(Let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”)

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord for a day of fulfilment and peace.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord to teach us to love others as he has loved us.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord for peace and justice in the world.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord to strengthen and relieve those who are in need.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord to renew the Church through the power of his life-giving Spirit.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

People: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

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.

People: **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: Special Vestry – Sunday the 18th of July at 11:00 – in-church and on Zoom to vote of the audited statements.

Memorial doves rescheduling it for Sunday the 11th of June following the 10:00 a.m. service. We will gather in the garden at 11:00 for a short service of remembrance and we will add to the ashes the ashes from the doves we put up in the windows to remember those who died from Covid 19 in Simcoe-Muskoka through this pandemic.

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 Rev. Simon today:

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Simon Bell
Video: Simon Bell/David Paradis

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

Roxanne Reid & Family & Bill Goodyer Family; Garn Mennell; Jane & Ron Lewis; Lorraine Whitwell; Doreen; The Wade Family; Alan Proudlove; Anthony Sacco; Sally Rees & her mom; Michelle Sinclair, Mom and Family; Livia & Neil Purcell; Adesh; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Cecilia Mowat; Tanya Bowskill; Sheri Scott; Audrey Moody; Wally Raymond; Christine; Kim; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wendy; Brenda Jessem; Shirley; Lynda Raye; Kilravey; Rhonda; Sherrie O.; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Theresa & Pete; 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:

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; Jim Tomkins; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Martin & Stephen Bertelsen; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Diocese of Damaturu (Nigeria)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Holy Trinity; Clearview