

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

161 Hanmer St. W., Barrie, On L4N 7S1
www.stmargaretbarrie.ca Email: stmarg@rogers.com
(705) 721-9528 Fax: (705) 721-9455



Wednesday Service

Wednesday, June 1, 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: Alleluia! Christ is Risen
People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: May his grace and peace be with you.
All: **May he fill our hearts with joy. Amen.**

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: **Eternal God, our Saviour Jesus Christ has promised to be with us until the end of time. Accept all we offer you this day, and renew us in his transfigured life; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE PSALMS

PSALM 101

Leader: I will sing of your love and justice;
People: **to you, LORD, I will sing praise.**

Leader: I will be careful to lead a blameless life—when will you come to me?
People: **I will conduct the affairs of my house with a blameless heart.**

Leader: I will not look with approval on anything that is vile. I hate what faithless people do;
People: **I will have no part in it.**

Leader: The perverse of heart shall be far from me;
People: **I will have nothing to do with what is evil.**

Leader: Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence;

People: **whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate.**

Leader: My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me;

People: **the one whose walk is blameless will minister to me.**

Leader: No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house;

People: **no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.**

Leader: Every morning I will put to silence, all the wicked in the land;

People: **I will cut off every evildoer from the city of the LORD.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Ephesians 4:1-16

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people."

(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) So, Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 8:28-34

(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**

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”

Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.”

He said to them, “Go!” So, they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Susan Snelling

Prayer

If I asked you what the purpose of the church is I am fairly confident you would say it is to proclaim the Good news of Christ crucified and risen or something along those lines. To bear witness to Christ. To serve God.

But the reading from Ephesians today speaks of something completely different. Hidden in verse 13, Paul says:

Until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the son of God.

And become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

According to this, the purpose of the church is for us to help one another to mature in our faith and in our knowledge of the Christ. One of the greatest threats the early church faced was competing teaching which led people away from the teaching of Paul, James, or Peter. This is what Paul is speaking of when he says they are “infants tossed back and forth by the waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching.” Competing voices make it hard to stay focussed. We can attest to this. Different sources report different news. Words get twisted and sometimes are used by opposing sides to tempt us to switch allegiances. Cunning and crafty people still scheme to deceive us. Recent events, the election in the US, the pandemic, the rationale for Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the provincial election. All provide evidence of falsifying events and reports to the point where we must work hard at unravelling the puzzle.

So how do we help one another to mature in our faith?

Paul offers some advice, much of it sound, for any of our relationships. The first thing we do is attempt to live lives that are worthy of our calling from God. God calls us to lives of love, to be members of the body of Christ-reconstituted on earth. We know we are to bear witness to Jesus Christ- to forgive others, to serve others, to care about others. Including one another.

Some characteristics that will assist us are humility, gentleness, and patience. We recognize one another as fellow children of God, siblings in Christ. Treat others as you want to be treated takes on added meaning when we reflect on our own vulnerability and remember we are all vulnerable. Handle with care. Patience is such an important part of our relationships. We are all different, come from different places, different worldviews, different understandings, different experiences, different generations, different gender identities, ethnic backgrounds. And yet we all still long to belong to and with others. We open space and time to get to know one another.

I love the notion that we are to bear with one another. It indicates sometimes we will annoy, misunderstand, need forgiveness, make mistakes. But these things do not separate us. Because we are committed to being in relationship with each other. And the greater good of supporting and encouraging each other as we mature in faith is of greater value than our disagreements. Love is not always easy.

Speaking the truth in love is also another way of saying that sometimes we will have to say things to one another that may hurt our feelings. But if we hold one another accountable in our growth again it is to help the other, not to destroy or judge or be overly critical. Support and encouragement are needed as we grow up into Christ- the Body of Christ.

The imagery of supporting ligaments, connecting bone and tissue, of being held together, and each parts having its own work to do helps us to picture what Paul is talking about when he uses an example of the church. All the parts coordinate to make the whole function. We need one another.

None of us can represent the body of Christ alone. Only in community are we able to adequately express the fullness of Christ's body. Each has a role to play- all are important. This recognition allows us to value each other and the contribution each can make.

Our maturity in Christ is not a personal or individual accomplishment. Each time we make a commitment to God we do so in community- whether that be baptism, confirmation, marriage, or ordination. We ask for prayers and meaningful support from those who witness our commitment. We provide resources, experience, a sounding board, so that others can continue to grow on their journeys.

Together we represent tangible evidence of God at work in our world. This is what we have been called to.

Gracious God of gentleness, humility, and patience, we pray for ourselves and for the community of believers that growing towards maturity of faith together, we would recognize and encourage one another as we strive to live lived worthy of your calling. Amen.

People: Amen

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (#15 Litany)

(In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, "Hear us, Lord of Glory!")

Reader: That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, Lord of glory!

Reader: That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, Lord of glory!

Reader: That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, Lord of glory!

Reader: That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, Lord of glory!

Reader: That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, Lord of glory!

Reader: That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, Lord of glory!

Reader: That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, Lord of glory! 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: Eternal God, our Saviour Jesus Christ has promised to be with us until the end of time. Accept all we offer you this day, and renew us in his transfigured life; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER #3:

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: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us eternal life. Therefore, joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: 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 thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

All: we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this break and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unit us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, 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.

BREAKING OF BREAD #8:

Celebrant: Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All: Now we are raised to new life.

Celebrant: We were buried in your tomb.

All: Now we share in your resurrection.

Celebrant: Live in us, that we may live in you.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

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: **Eternal Giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom. Confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: Dr. Amy Pauley

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

Brody; Lequita Adkins; Peggy Russell; Pat Ellis' Family; 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; Wilma; 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; Gail Jones; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Donna, Ray, Nancy & Chris Wilson; Lorraine Whitwell; Steve & Jade; John; Celeste & parents; Colleen; Martin Bertelsen; Stephen Bertelsen; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Derek; Sean; Rose McIntyre; Vayda; Daniel Leibovich; Barb Semsch; Rose Court; Mark Ralston; Jackson; Phil & Kathy C.; Bob Anderson; 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 Lusaka (Central Africa)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Children's and Youth Ministry

Pass The Word

June 1, 2022

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

We are open again! 10:00 a.m. Sunday service.

Messy Church

Our next Messy Church will not be until after summer. Fun and fellowship for families. Crafts, story time, music and prayers, simple supper. For more information contact Rev. Susan.

Yard Sale

We are planning a church yard sale for Saturday the 4th of June. We will send out more information closer to the time, but please put this date in your calendar and hold on to things we might be able to sale. Contact Beth Steffler for more information.

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.

Friday, **June 10th**, 7:00 p.m.– Movie – “**At Bertram's Hotel**”, starring Joan Hinkson as Miss Marple.

