

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Service

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

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11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

THE GREETING: Rev. Canon Simon Bell

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Celebrant: As we begin this service let us pray:

People: Holy Creator, you made all people in every land in your image and entrusted them with care of the earth you graciously gave to all peoples. Make us mindful of the first peoples who dwelt on this land we are on, the Huron-Wendt, Odawa (oh-da-wah) and Anishinabek (ah-nish-nah-bek) Nations and the land subject to Treaty 16 of the Upper Canada Treaties, also known as the Lake Simcoe Purchase of 1815.

Give us penitent hearts, that we may recall the destructiveness of western settlement on these peoples. Give us attentiveness, that we may hear and give thanks for indigenous voices in our community and in the Anglican Church of Canada. Give us sincere and open hearts, that we may embrace the work of reconciliation to which you call your Church. We pray these things in your name, in the name of the Son and the Sacred Spirit.

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: O God our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. 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—

People: when will you come to me?

Leader: I will conduct the affairs of my house

People: with a blameless heart.

Leader: I will not look with approval

People: on anything that is vile.

Leader: 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: Romans 4:13-25

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead.

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

(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

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So, they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon, he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So, when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Canon Simon Bell

Are you envious because I am generous?

Psalm 119:121-144; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 20:1-16

Matthew's Gospel is loaded with a series of images or pictures of the kingdom of heaven: "the kingdom of heaven is like ...". The Gospel reading set for us is one such image, but it focuses on a particular element of the kingdom, namely God's generosity.

The parable or story is about a landlord who owns a vineyard – a very common image of the people of God in the Hebrew scriptures – who wants to find some labourers to work in it. The landowner thus sets out to recruit some workers "early in the morning" and they agree to work for a regular day's wage. He goes out again at 9:00 a.m. and then at noon and then at 3:00 in the afternoon and finds more labourers willing to work for him. Finally, at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon – close to the end of the work-day – he goes out and finds some who could not find work that day and asks them to work for him until the evening.

In the evening, when the day of work is done, he asks his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." So, starting with the group he employed at 5:00 p.m. he slowly works his way through each of the groups and pays each person the daily wage. Now we can imagine that those who got employed first when they saw what those who were employed at 5:00 p.m. got they would have anticipated more as each group got paid. By the end, once they received their wages, they would have been so infuriated and disappointed because of the expectation they had created, "Surely, as those who had worked the longest, we deserve more!" They grumbled against the landlord and said, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."

The landowner replies, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me?" While the landowner's response plays on the idea that they signed up to be paid a day's wage, the crux of his argument is found in that single line, "Or are you envious because I am generous."

The kingdom of heaven is a generous kingdom and does not play by our rules of what we think is adequate or fair. The kingdom of heaven is a generous kingdom because God is, by nature, generous. That is the whole point of the reading from Romans set for us today. The generosity of God begins with Abraham and the promise that God will bless all of humanity through him. Some may want to argue that this is not fair. Surely as those who have been faithful from the beginning the reward should be greater. No, says Paul. When we participate in the mission of God then our hearts are as generous as God's heart and that the measure of our faith is not how long we have stuck to it or how fervently we have kept the rules (in this case the Hebrew Law), but rather the gracious generosity of God.

That should be just as true in the life of the church. Firstly, we are here to reflect the generosity of God in the way that we treat humanity. Our vocation is to live as good stewards of all that "belongs" to the landowner and to share it with the same generosity that the landowner would do. To give from the abundance of God irrespective of who we think "earned it" or "deserves it". The point about grace is that, while it is costly to the one who gives, it is free to the one who receives. No amount of "deserving" or "working for" can ever reflect the true value of generous grace.

But the same is true in the life of the community we call the church. Years of service and sacrifice are no measure of who get's to participate, make decisions, receive ministry or hold sway. We are only members of the church through baptism, a means of grace. Each of us stands equal relative to each other because of that grace and none of us has earned a position of privilege or power because we have earned it or paid for it or done our dues or been around for longer. God treats us no differently to each other and God is as generously gracious to each of us irrespective and we need to do the same to each other. Amen

People: Amen

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Litany)

Celebrant: Holy Creator, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Celebrant: Risen Christ, through whom the whole creation is reconciled to God,

People: **have mercy on us.**

Celebrant: Life-giving Spirit, whose love and truth fills the world and searches the depths of our lives,

People: **have mercy on us.**

Celebrant: Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,

People: **have mercy on us.**

Celebrant: From our failure to recognize and respect the revelation of your truth and love in the First Peoples of this land, Saviour,

People: **forgive and heal us.**

Celebrant: From our participation in the systematic oppression of indigenous sovereignty, language, culture and spirituality, Saviour,

People: **forgive and heal us.**

Celebrant: From our role in the Indian Residential Schools designed to eliminate the unique society, wisdom and beauty of the indigenous peoples of this land, Saviour,

People: **forgive and heal us.**

Celebrant: From our complicit tolerance of the decimation of Indigenous family structures leaving children vulnerable to abuses of every kind, Saviour,

People: **forgive and heal us.**

Celebrant: From our continued acceptance of unjust legal, educational, health and social structures that continue to oppress and destroy the lives of many indigenous people, Saviour,

People: **forgive and heal us.**

Celebrant: O God, we pray for the gifts of your grace and your love which never gives up on us and is forever faithful. Inspire our minds with a vision of the reconciliation of your kingdom in this time and place.

People: Hear us, O Christ.

Celebrant: Touch our eyes, that we may see the sacredness in all creation.

People: Hear us, O Christ.

Celebrant: Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth of every peoples the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

People: Hear us, O Christ.

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, you have made our Saviour Jesus Christ the head of all creation. Receive all we offer you this day and renew us in his risen life, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

EUCHARISTIC 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: **Almighty God, guide and protect your people who share in this sacred mystery and keep us always in your love; 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. Canon Simon Bell

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:

Boutier family; Judy & Don; Frances & Farrell; Arthur; Martin Bertelsen & The Bertelsen Family; Toby; 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; 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; 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 Makurdi (Nigeria)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Rev. Leigh Kern, Right Relations Coordinator

Pass The Word

June 22, 2022

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

For those of you that know Wally Ferguson, his celebration of life will be on Sunday June 26 at 5pm. It will take place at Celebration Church, 460 Yonge Street. I believe that Celebration church worships in the hall at the Baptist Church on Yonge street in Painswick.

COVID UPDATE

As of Sunday June the 4th we will be returning 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.

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.

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 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, **June 23rd**, 7:00 p.m. - Movie – **“The First Wives Club”**, a comedy starring Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton.

Friday, **July 10**, 7:00 p.m. – Movie – **“Gosford Park”**, mystery starring Helen Mirren, Stephen Fry, Derek Jacobi, plus so many other British stars. This was an Academy Award Winner.

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

1:30 p.m. at

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.

Summer Day Camp

We will be resuming our summer Day Camp. It will be held **July 25th to July 29th**. If you are interested, please contact the church office as soon as possible as space is limited and it will be a first come first served basis. Price \$15.00 per day.

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