

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Service

Wednesday, June 8, 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: 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 and everliving God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal, keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE PSALMS

PSALM 72

Leader: Endow the king with your justice, O God,

People: the royal son with your righteousness.

Leader: May he judge your people in righteousness,

People: your afflicted ones with justice.

Leader: May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,

People: the hills the fruit of righteousness.

Leader: May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy;

People: may he crush the oppressor.

Leader: May he endure as long as the sun,

People: as long as the moon, through all generations.

Leader: May he be like rain falling on a mown field,

People: like showers watering the earth.

Leader: In his days may the righteous flourish

People: and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

Leader: May he rule from sea to sea

People: and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Leader: May the desert tribes bow before him

People: and his enemies lick the dust.

Leader: May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores

People: bring tribute to him.

Leader: May the kings of Sheba and Seba

People: present him gifts.

Leader: May all kings bow down to him

People: and all nations serve him.

Leader: For he will deliver the needy who cry out,

People: the afflicted who have no one to help.

Leader: He will take pity on the weak and the needy

People: and save the needy from death.

Leader: He will rescue them from oppression and violence,

People: for precious is their blood in his sight.

Leader: Long may he live!

People: May gold from Sheba be given him.

Leader: May people ever pray for him

People: and bless him all day long.

Leader: May grain abound throughout the land;

People: on the tops of the hills may it sway.

Leader: May the crops flourish like Lebanon

People: **and thrive like the grass of the field.**

Leader: May his name endure forever;

People: **may it continue as long as the sun.**

Leader: Then all nations will be blessed through him,

People: **and they will call him blessed.**

Leader: Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel,

People: **who alone does marvelous deeds.**

Leader: Praise be to his glorious name forever;

People: **may the whole earth be filled with his glory.**

Leader: Amen and Amen.

People: **This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Galatians 5:1-15

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again, I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.

You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."

I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:1-12

(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**

The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.

He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away.

When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. "Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread."

Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Sermon

Rev. Canon Simon Bell

Nullifying the Grace of God

Psalm 119:73-96; Galatians 5:1-15; Matthew 16:1-12

How easily we nullify the grace of God within the life of the church. The irony of the Reformation is that, while it re-emphasised salvation as a free gift of God through faith, it led to an entire collection of religious movements that communicated the complete opposite. Whether that was the Blue Laws of Calvinism or the abandonment of music in worship by the Puritans or the tea-totalling of the Methodists or the Victorian values that dominated English society, each of them was an attempt to add regulations and requirements on people of faith that took Christianity away from the basic principle of grace.

That was just as true in the early church as it grappled with a particular sect within its life, namely the Judiasers. They insisted that for Gentiles to be faithful followers of Jesus that they should keep and observe the Hebrew Law. The most obvious point of contention revolved around the requirement that Gentile converts, in addition to being baptised, should be circumcised as a rite of initiation into the faith. It is to them that Paul responds in Galatians 5.

Paul creates a distinction between the life of freedom we have because of grace and the life of slavery associated with the Hebrew Law. He very clearly points out that if, for any reason, we chose to live by the Law then we have no need of Christ or benefit from the grace he offers us. Why? Because to suggest that we keep the Law is to suggest that the grace of God is not sufficient for our salvation. And, if the grace of God is not sufficient, then keeping one element of the Law and not all of it seems pointless. It is to that point that Thomas Cranmer – in putting together the wording of the Common Book of Prayer – placed these words into the Eucharistic Prayer: “Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world.”

True freedom comes not from fear of breaking the Law and thus jeopardising one’s salvation, but from knowing that we are recipients of grace through Christ and can therefore live in love. As Paul makes plain, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.” In other words, this is a none issue if we recognise that we respond and live in faith because we know we are loved.

Does that mean that we are free to do whatever we want because we are not slaves to the Hebrew Law? Not at all. Rather, through love, we become slaves to each other. As Paul writes, “For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’.”

If my salvation is solely through the grace of God expressed in the love of Christ, then the working out of my faith is solely through the lens of the love I express to my neighbour. In receiving grace, I offer grace. In knowing compassion, I offer compassion. In knowing I am loved is the freedom to love. If the full measure of my salvation is the love and grace of God, then the full measure of my faithfulness is the love and grace of God given out to my neighbour.

So, what is the issue? All too often we are treated as second class Christians or not as Christians at all because we do not hold to some particular doctrine of the church or some particular view of Scripture or some particular ethical view of the world. The folk who “peddle” these views and who imply that they are amongst the select few “true Christians because they hold them” are no better than the scribes and Pharisees who Jesus describes in Matthew’s Gospel as an “evil and adulterous generation” and the yeast for whom the disciples need to beware. They are no better than the Judiasers in the church in Galatia who want to enslave people under the guise of the Gospel and who Paul wishes would go and castrate themselves. In every sense they have chosen to reduce the fullness of the Gospel of grace for the sake of their particular doctrine of the church or some particular view of Scripture or some particular ethical view of the world. I thank God that I have no need to follow or entertain or give in to them for the sake of my salvation – God’s grace in Christ is sufficient – and I do not have to prove my faithfulness to them. I know that my desire and intention to love I show to my neighbour as myself if sufficient.

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 for 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: Giver of life, receive all we offer you this day. Let the Spirit you bestow on your Church continue to work in the world through the hearts of all who believe. We ask this 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: Father, may we who have received this eucharist live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth his gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of 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:

Stuart 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; 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 Machakos (Kenya)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Holy Trinity, Trinity Square

Pass The Word

June 8, 2022

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.

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.

