

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

161 Hanmer St. W., Barrie, On L4N 7S1

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Lent 4

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

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Wednesday Service

March 30, 2022

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

THE GREETING: Rev. Canon Simon Bell

Pg. 185

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,

All: 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 OF THE DAY: (Prayer of the Day)

All: Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PSALM 101

Celebrant: I will sing of loyalty and of justice;

People: to you, O LORD, I will sing.

Celebrant: I will study the way that is blameless. When shall I attain it?

People: I will walk with integrity of heart within my house;

Celebrant: I will not set before my eyes anything that is base. I hate the work of those who fall away;

People: it shall not cling to me.

Celebrant: Perverseness of heart shall be far from me;

People: I will know nothing of evil.

Celebrant: One who secretly slanders a neighbor I will destroy.
People: A haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not tolerate.

Celebrant: I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, so that they may live with me;
People: **whoever walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me.**

Celebrant: No one who practices deceit shall remain in my house;
People: **no one who utters lies shall continue in my presence.**

Celebrant: Morning by morning I will destroy all the wicked in the land,
People: **cutting off all evildoers from the city of the LORD.**

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore, I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says, "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Mark 8:11-26

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out—beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod." They said to one another, "It is because we have no bread." And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them, "Why are you talking about having no bread?"

Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?" They said to him, "Twelve." "And the seven for the four

thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?" And they said to him, "Seven." Then he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

They came to Bethsaida. Some people^[c] brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Can you see anything?" And the man^[d] looked up and said, "I can see people, but they look like trees, walking." Then Jesus^[e] laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Then he sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON: Rev. Canon Simon Bell

The moral character of leadership

Psalm 101; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Mark 8:11-26

Psalm 101 was composed for the inauguration of the king and asserts one key concept: character is the foundation of leadership. Or, to phrase it differently, simply enforcing the law concerning right or wrong is not adequate.

The Psalm opens with the twin concepts of loyalty (*hesed*) and justice. Loyalty here has the same Hebrew root as unfailing love or compassion and suggests that the loyalty of the king and the people is rooted in a mutual understanding of unfailing love. It is twinned with justice and suggests to us that such loyalty is made real or tangible in seeking justice for those who are wronged and the restoration of right relationship between people (the Hebrew concept of justice is not about punishment for doing wrong, but about restoration to what is right and good – what we might call restorative justice today). Importantly such a role by the king is rooted in the king's divine calling to live out the character of God and to be empowered by God for such a task, hence the reference to "when will I attain it?" or "when will you come to me?"

The rest of the Psalm is how the king intends to live that out in being "blameless" (vs.2b-4) and to support those in his realm who do and to oppose those who do not (vs.5-8).

The central idea of moral character that defines the king is "blameless" (*tamim* vs.2 &6) and "integrity" (*tom* vs.2). These same terms are used in Psalm 18:20-30 and Psalm 78:72 to describe the king's righteousness and carry the idea of wholeness, completeness and finished. They speak of consistency between the values ascribed to – loyalty and justice – and how those are lived out in a way that demonstrates wholeness, completeness and that brings things to completion in contrast to hypocrisy. They speak of a deep commitment and dependency on God to make them real and tangible in the life of the one who seeks loyalty and justice.

"Integrity of heart" is contrast in the Psalm with "perverseness of heart" (vs.4). Perverseness means conduct that is "twisted, inconsistent and lacking in coherence with any inner commitment". The litany of wrongs that characterize "perverseness of heart" include evil, wicked, base, falling away, secret slander, haughty arrogance, deceit and lies – all things we loath to see in anybody in leadership that promises us loyalty and justice. This "list of wrongs" is more than a list – it is a significant failure in character.

The beauty of the Psalm is not in the list of the things that the king gets right or fails to get wrong, but rather in the aspiration to be more than a list of do's and don't's. That beauty is found in the aspiration of the king to have this deep sense of integrity to seek loyalty and justice lived out for the benefit of not only those in the

king's own household, but in the whole land – that all and sundry would benefit from this moral fortitude and character.

The Psalm sets itself in contrast to the leadership of the Pharisees and Herod in today's Gospel reading – the "yeast" of hypocrisy that feeds off the poor in contrast to the justice and loyalty of God to be found in the feeding of the poor with generous excess. It sets itself in contrast to the political leadership of our day that promises the world during elections and delivers nothing but broken promises until the next election. It calls us to higher levels of leadership in the life of the church that go way beyond rule keeping and call us to character that speaks of deep loyalty/faithful compassion to those who we serve and amongst those to whom we minister and justice for those who we advocate for. The Psalm calls us to "be" Christ in our leadership and – in our faithfulness and commitment – to "do" the actions of Christ in our world. Amen

People: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (#14)

(With confidence and trust let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")

Reader: For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth; we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For those preparing for baptism and for their teachers and sponsors, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy and compassion, your Word calls us home to faith and love. Accept all we offer you this day, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER #5

Pg. 204

Celebrant: The Lord Be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We life 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 or 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,

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 names 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 cares 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 to 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

Pg. 211

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF BREAD #7

Pg. 213

Celebrant: We break this bread,

All: Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Celebrant: Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

All: if we have died with him, we shall live with him, if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.

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: Giver of life, you enlighten all who come into the world. Fill our hearts with the splendour of your grace, that we may perfectly love you and worthily praise your holy name, through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY

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

THE BLESSING:

Celebrant: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

NOTICES:

THE DISMISSAL:

Reader: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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Assisting today:

Celebrant; The Rev. Canon Simon Bell
Video Livestream: David Paradis

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

Lorraine Whitwell & Family; Loretta's Family; Celeste & parents; Winnie Fulcher & Family; Andrews & Kelly Families; Stephanie; Nova; Roberta Place; Colleen; Irene; John; Kayla; Dorothy McIlravey & husband Chuck; Kim Middaugh; Lorraine W; Wilma; Sally; Steve & Jade; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Stephen Bertelsen; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Karyn; Rev. Janet Mitchell; Martin Bertelsen; 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:

Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean; Rose McIntyre; Vayda; Daniel Leibovich; Barb Semsch; Rose Court; Cecilia Mowat & Tanya Bowskill; Donna & Ray Wilson; Mark Ralston; Jackson; Phil & Kathy C.; Bob Anderson; Nancy Perault; Marco Romita & Rose; Sharon Z; Adesh; Lisa Marie; Joyce Antony; Bill & Cathy Gray; Dave Lawrence; Livia & Neil Purcell; Sheila Green; Carrie Snow; Sheri Scott; 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; Deborah Hall; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Wendy Goodyer; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Diocese of Kolhapur (North India)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

St. Philip, Etobicoke