

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Service

March 9, 2022

11:00 a.m. Service

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11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer & Communion

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant: Lord, open our lips,
All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Celebrant: O God, make speed to save us.
All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

All: 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.

Alleluia!

Celebrant: Rejoice and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. *Luke 6.23*

THE PSALMS

PSALM 49

Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world, both low and high, rich and poor together.

My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.

Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me, those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?

Truly, no ransom avails for one's life, there is no price one can give to God for it.

For the ransom of life is costly, and can never suffice, that one should live on forever and never see the grave.

When we look at the wise, they die; fool and dolt perish together and leave their wealth to others.

Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they named lands their own.

Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.

Such is the fate of the foolhardy, the end of those^[d] who are pleased with their lot.*Selah*

Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; Death shall be their shepherd; straight to the grave they descend, and their form shall waste away; Sheol shall be their home.^l

But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.*Selah*

Do not be afraid when some become rich, when the wealth of their houses increases.

For when they die they will carry nothing away; their wealth will not go down after them.

Though in their lifetime they count themselves happy—for you are praised when you do well for yourself—they will go to the company of their ancestors, who will never again see the light.

Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.

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

Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-13

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF CORINTHIANS

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-45

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling^[c] he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus^[g] could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON: Rev. Canon Simon Bell

Time to Pray

Psalm 128; 1 Corinthians 2:1-13; Mark 1:29-45

I just could not imagine Jesus' average day. The writer of Mark's Gospel constructs the narrative to give us a good sense of the business and intensity by using words like "immediately" and "all" and "whole city" and "many" and "everyone". We are actually only in the first chapter of Mark in the reading set for today and already it feels chaotic and demanding and unrelenting. And within the midst of all this mayhem and frenetic activity there are three personal windows into what that ministry looked like.

The first story involves Simon's mother-in-law who was in bed with a fever when Jesus, Simon and Andrew and James and John show up for a quick break at Simon and Andrew's home. In fact, the situation is so demanding that as soon as they enter the house Jesus is told of her condition "at once" – there is no break here. Jesus goes to her, takes her hand and lifts her up. The healing and result are so immediate that she begins serving them food right there and then.

That leads us into the second little personal window, because rather than giving Jesus a break the “the whole city gathered at the door” to the home of Simon and Andrew that evening at sunset. They brought to Jesus “all who were sick or possessed by demons”. Jesus then spends the night curing “many who were sick with various diseases and casting out many demons.”

Jesus, again, tries to have a little break, but the disciples “hunted for him” and when they found him, they tell him, “Everyone is searching for you.” So, Jesus goes on a tour of Galilee traveling from town to town and synagogue to synagogue. It is then that we have this third personal window open on a man with leprosy. “If you choose, you could make me clean,” he says. Jesus, moved by pity, reaches out his hand and touches him and says, “I do choose. Be made clean!” Rather than doing what Jesus had instructed him and as the Hebrew Law required him to do, the man goes and tells everybody his story and increases the demand on Jesus’ time to such an extent that Jesus could no longer go into a town without having more demands placed upon him.

Sometimes we need to be reminded that the need for ministry is never-ending. A pastor’s job is never done, and a church’s mission is never completed. In fact, like Jesus, we could exercise our free choice to always respond by offering healing, wholeness and reconciliation, because the world is – by its very nature – such a damaged and broken place. The demand will always exceed the time and resources we have, and the need will always be there whenever we wake up for a new day or struggle into the night.

The question is never whether we respond to that need or not – love compels us to be present, to bring healing and wholeness and reconciliation. That is our calling, purpose and vocation. It is what drives us and is meant to be the central focus and function of our life together as a community. The question is really what is at the heart of that life together and the answer is found in a simple verse that provides us with a pause, “In the morning, while it was still dark, he (Jesus) got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.”

Our communion with God – that life of focused contemplation and prayer – is at the heart of our life as a ministering community. The Christian life is meant to involve us “drawing aside” for communion with God that we may be more effective being “out there” bringing healing, wholeness and reconciliation to the world. Simultaneously, the hyper-activity associated with ministry is meant to thrust us back into the embrace of God that we may be renewed and refreshed. One without the other makes no sense at all. There is no way we can be in the company of Jesus without wanting to follow him onto the dusty roads of existence in order to engage in the real needs of the world around us. And there is no way that we can survive on the dusty roads of existence engaging in the real needs of the world around us without sharing the company of Jesus in prayer and worship, communion and reflection, contemplation and retreat. As we look to our future as a community of faith, we need to constantly seek that balance.

All: Amen

(Time allowed for Silent Reflection.)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Hear, O Israel

All: 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 #18 A Responsive Intercession

Celebrant: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Celebrant: For all people in their daily life and work;

People: For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

Celebrant: For this community, our country, and the world;

People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Celebrant: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Celebrant: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Celebrant: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People: For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

Celebrant: For Andrew our bishop and Ryscilla our Area Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

People: For all who serve God in his Church.

Celebrant: For our own needs and those of others. Hear us, Lord;

People: For your mercy is great.

Celebrant: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We will exalt you, O God our king;

People: And praise your name for ever and ever.

Celebrant: We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

People: Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

People: in your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

All: 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

THE DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NOTICES: 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.

LENTEN STUDIES GROUPS;

The “I am’s” in John’s Gospel – for six Thursdays of Lent between 12:00 and 1:00 and repeated between 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St Margaret’s both in-person in the church and on-line.

Faith in the City: Conversations in Urban Theology – for the six Fridays of Lent between 12:00 and 1:00 at Trinity starting on the 4th of March. In-person in the church and on-line. Lunch to go.

MINI MEALS SALE – Trinity ACW

Trinity ACW do a fundraiser for local Barrie charities by selling prepared meals. They include: **Shepherd's Pies** -Lg. \$7.00/ Sm. \$5.00; **Meat Pies** – Lg. (6") pie - \$7.00/ Sm. (4") pie - \$5.00; **Soups** - Squash, asparagus, beef barley, or bean and bacon -- \$6.00; **Potato Pancakes**, 2 per pkg. - \$1.00. Please **call Mae at 705 734 1888** to place your order and arrange for pickup. Pickup is also available after Church on Sundays but must be ordered ahead.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - Mondays during Lent 1:30-3:00 pm March 7th- April 11th

This study will be offered on Zoom. Rev. Susan Snelling will be leading it.

Witness at the Cross

Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.

In *Witness at the Cross*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play in the Gospels. For each, Jesus has a particular meaning and message, and from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

Contact Rev. Susan at smsatgoodshepherd@gmail.com or revsusan@rogers.com

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.

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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:

Irene; John; Kayla; Dorothy McIlravey & husband Chuck; Kim Middaugh; Lorraine W; Wilma; Sally; Steve & Jade; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Stephen Bertelsen; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Gabrielle & Dom & family; Karyn; Shane & Shelly Finnigan & Families; Rev. Janet Mitchell; Dave & Winnie Fulcher; Martin Bertelsen; Sharron Snider; Peter Hubbard; Sally Smith; Marilyn Lloyd; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Brenda Jessem; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean.

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:

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; Alvin Maynard; 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 North Kigezi – The Church of the Province of Uganda

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program and youth ministry in the diocese