

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Service

Wednesday, May 11, 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: 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.**

KYRIE: Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT

All: **O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE PSALMS

PSALM 49

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

Celebrant: My mouth shall speak wisdom;
People: **the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Celebrant: Mortals cannot abide in their pomp;
People: **they are like the animals that perish.**

Celebrant: Such is the fate of the foolhardy,
People: **the end of those who are pleased with their lot.***Selah*

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

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

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

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

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

Celebrant: Mortals cannot abide in their pomp;
People: **they are like the animals that perish.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF THESSALONIANS

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts.

As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children.

So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:17-20

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Canon Simon Bell

I have not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it

Psalm 49; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:17-20

This passage from Matthew’s Gospel that we read today comes in the middle of a block of teaching that we call the Sermon on the Mount. It follows on from the Beatitudes and Jesus teaching on us being salt and light in the world and precedes a series on Jesus’ response to the Law – “You have heard it said”. In this sense it creates a bridge for us and a point of focus for the shift to Jesus’ discussion on the Law.

It starts with that statement by Jesus, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil”. Jesus’ reference to the Law and the prophets is not a reference to the first five books of the Hebrews Scriptures and that section we deem to be the “prophetic literature”, but rather a common way in Jesus’ day to refer to the summation of the Canon of the Hebrew Scriptures. We can imagine that the statement is in response to an anticipated view that this radical Rabbi Jesus was there to trash the Biblical

tradition by breaking the Law, for example by healing on the sabbath, and to disregard the prophetic tradition. While, in contrast, the direct opposite is true. Rather than coming to abandon or abolish or remove this important foundation to the Hebrew faith, Jesus' direct intention is to fulfill it. But the question is how.

Firstly, as the writers of the New Testament are careful to point out, Jesus in his life and ministry constantly fulfills both the images and the prophetic references of the Hebrew Scriptures. For example, the writer of Hebrews is very careful to point out how Jesus fulfills the imagery of the Hebrew Scriptures. Furthermore, in Matthew's Gospel we have these constant references to the prophetic tradition, whether that be in the Psalms or Isaiah, and how Jesus fulfills them.

But there is another reference here that is really important for us to understand, and that Jesus expands upon in the "you have heard that it is said" passages and relates to the closing reference to "unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." It is aimed at suggesting to his listeners that they misunderstood the intention of the Law and the prophets. In the following sections Jesus keeps referring to an aspect of the law – "you have heard that it is said" – and goes beyond the external obedience to the heart or attitude or mindset behind the commandment.

For example, in Matthew 5:21 Jesus says, "You have heard that it was said in ancient times, 'You shall not murder.'" Jesus then expands that, "But I say to you that if you are angry with your brother or sister ... and if you insult your brother or sister ... and if you say, 'You fool.'" Jesus is moving beyond the external commandment against murder to the heart of the issue of treating somebody as an object or in a dehumanising way that devalues them. In each case Jesus exceeds the external commandment and get' to the heart of what it means to love God with every ounce of our being and to love our neighbour as ourselves. By doing so he is not abolishing the Law and the prophets, but rather getting to the true intention of God that we love God with every ounce of our being and love our neighbour as ourselves.

Following Jesus, at its heart, is never about ticking off a list of dos and dont's. If we have reduced our faith to that then we are no better off than the crowds to which Jesus was speaking because we have failed to truly understand his intention to indicate that the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets is to be found in loving God with every ounce of my being and loving my neighbour as myself. Simultaneously, if we have assumed that Jesus has abandoned the teaching of the Hebrew Scriptures and discarded them for something else then we have also failed to truly grasp what he was about. It is to us then, in the crowd, that Jesus says, "I have not come to abolish but to fulfill." That, in essence, the Law and the Prophets is our starting point that Jesus wants us to go beyond in following him in order to discover the true heart of his teaching that is to be found in a love, mercy and grace that revalues our humanity and elevates our relationship with God way beyond a check list of dos and dont's. Amen.

People: Amen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Hear, O Israel

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

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: God of loving care, you spread before us the table of life, and give us the cup of salvation to drink. Keep us always in the fold of your Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our shepherd. 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: God of steadfast love, watch over the Church redeemed by the blood of your Son. May we who share in these holy mysteries come safely to your eternal kingdom, where there is one flock and one shepherd. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen 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: David Paradis

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

McPhee family; Lynn Venkat; Shirley Hatch; Val Firman; Edna Goyette; Frances McInnis; Gail Jones; Brenda & Family; John & Family; Bruno, sons & all the family; Parents & Family of EV; Matthew Canning; Bill Canning; Quinn, Cass & Cory; Donna, Ray, Nancy & Chris Wilson; Ida; Cecilia Mowat; Lorraine Whitwell; Celeste & parents; Stephanie; Alvin Maynard; Nova; Irene; John; Kayla; Dorothy McIlravey & husband Chuck; Kim Middaugh; Wilma; Sally; Steve & Jade; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Karyn; Rev. Janet Mitchell; 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:

Colleen; Elizabeth Cresswell; Martin Bertelsen; Stephen Bertelsen; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean; Rose McIntyre; Vayda; Daniel Leibovich; Barb Semsch; Rose Court; 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; 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 Lichfield (England)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

St. George (Clarke) Newcastle

Pass The Word

May 11, 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 date is May 28th, 4:00-6:00 p.m. 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 if on Fridays.

Thursday, May 19th, 7:00 p.m. Movie – “**The Family Stone**”, starring Diane Keaton, Sarah Jessica Parker, Rachel McAdams. Once again, we would appreciate donations to the foodbank.

Book Club

Thursday, May 19th at 1:30 p.m. in church. We will be reading *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by Desmond Tutu & Delai Lama. 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.

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.

