

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday, May 12, 2021

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Sixth Easter Wednesday Service

May 12, 2021

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Celebrant: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

Celebrant: Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

People: We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

Celebrant: God has claimed us as his own.

People: He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

If you love me, you will keep my word, and my Father will love you, and we will come to you.

John 14.23

RESPONSORY

Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting? Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Death is swallowed up in victory. The trumpet will sound, and the dead shall be raised. Where, O death, is your sting? We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed. Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting?

THE PSALMS

PSALM 119:97-120

Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.

Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation.

I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.
I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.
Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.
I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.
The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.
Your decrees are my heritage for ever; they are the joy of my heart.
I incline my heart to perform your statutes for ever, to the end.
I hate the double-minded, but I love your law.
You are my hiding-place and my shield; I hope in your word.
Go away from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God.
Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope.
Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually.
You spurn all who go astray from your statutes; for their cunning is in vain.
All the wicked of the earth you count as dross; therefore I love your decrees.
My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgements.

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

THE READINGS

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES 5:13-18

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE 12:22-31

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

He said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

FEEDING ON GOD – CONSIDER CREATION

The English Prayer Book had a wonderful word in it that we hardly hear anymore – “succour” – to refer to the nature of our relationship to God as our Creator. It derived from the same root word as “suckle” and carried with it the idea that not only are we created by God, but that God sustains us. In contrast to the idea of God as Father in our parental imagery, it held to the idea of God as Mother who fed us from her very existence.

Jesus was a profound observer of nature and often drew on natural images to talk of the relationship of humanity to God. This passage from Luke’s Gospel invites us to “consider” and to learn about faith from what we observe in the natural world. It builds upon two concerns – what we will eat and what we will wear – two of the worries of human existence. Here Jesus emphasis is on placing these concerns into perspective - Jesus challenges are “need” to worry by putting food and clothing into perspective as a priority and secondly as an issue of faith in God.

In terms of perspective, Jesus challenges our “need” to worry about these material concerns – food and clothing – in relationship to the idea that “life is more than food, and the body more than clothing” (12:23). As humans we resolve the issue of worry through work – the human striving to provide these things for ourselves – and in the process get our priorities all muddled up. Perspective requires a shift in focus, “Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well” (12:31). It is not that we should not have priorities and that we should not strive for something but being a follower of Jesus means our priorities shift from our basic human needs to those of seeking God’s kingdom of love and grace in all of life. If we are not convinced, then “consider nature”.

“Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!” Now birds are pretty industrious critters, but the one thing they do not do, is crop or livestock farming. They simply take what is available to them from nature in order to survive. Jesus suggests to us that this is God’s doing – creation is so ordered by God as to provide for them.

Then, in a similar vein to Jesus, comparing us to the value of sparrows sold in a market, “of how much more value are you than the birds!”

“Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!” Flowers have an intrinsic beauty to them that is not manufactured by industry, but solely a display of their inner capacity. Jesus, in drawing upon one of the greatest and wealthiest of Hebrew figures, Solomon, suggests to us that he could not even come near to intrinsic beauty in spite of all his wealth.

In both “considers”, Jesus then adds in a little twist of time. In the first - “And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?” – Jesus points out how little command we have over life in that we cannot add to it in any way. In the second - “But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!” - Jesus’ emphasis, the temporary nature of this display of floral beauty in contrast to our eternal value.

We end the passage with some negative application in a sort of echo “do not keep striving” and “do not keep worrying” – which literally translates as “And you not seek what you might eat and what you might drink and not be in suspense/be in anxiety/be of doubtful mind” (*meteorizesthe* – only used here). This sentence is written in the present, imperative and passive tense to indicate this sense that we, the listeners, are not to be constant passive recipients of striving and worrying or victims of living in a constant state of frantic suspense about how our basic needs will be met. Rather, we are called to live different – in faith knowing that the God loves and values us. That God values our true human vocation to live out the kingdom values of love and grace are and, as such, be cared for.

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

Celebrant: Let us offer our intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings, saying,
People: ‘Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.’

Celebrant: May we live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross.
People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: May all people receive the good news of Christ’s victory.
People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: May those born to new life in the waters of baptism know the power of Christ's resurrection.

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: May those who suffer pain and anguish find healing and peace in the compassion of Christ.

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: May we be united in Christ's undying love with all who have passed through the gates of death.

People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Today we remember Joyce Antony and her family with the passing of her sister Dulcie in India and we pray for Gail Noseworthy and family with the passing of Dave.

People: Amen.

THE COLLECT

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you, riches beyond imagination. Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NOTICES

BLESSING:

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.

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Morning and Evening Prayer for the Seasons of the Church Year Prepared by the Ven. Dr. Richard Leggett for the Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee of the Anglican Church of Canada Authorized by The General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada, 2019

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Assisting Rev. Simon today:

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Simon Bell
Video: Simon Bell/David Paradis

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

The Noseworthy Family; Joyce Antony & Family; Broomes Family; Adesh; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Michelle Sinclair's Mom & Dad; Kevin Hamann; Cecilia Mowat; Tanya Bowskill; Sheri Scott; Audrey Moody; Wally Raymond; Christine; Beth Steffler & Family; Kevin & Danielle Sullivan; Kim; Jeremiah Sullivan; AJ; Dorothy & Chuck; People of St. Vincent; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wendy; Adara; Jean Glionna; Sarah & Dee; Kaus; Brenda Jessem; Shirley; Bobby Paradis & Family; Marg Thomas & Family; Lyon's Family; Lynda Raye; Kilravey; Rhonda; Sherrie O.; Jane Tutty; Bill and Ann Canning; Tanya North; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Theresa & Pete; Jaxon Croft; Ron & Jane Lewis; Michelle & Ian Sinclair; Sean; Sophia L; Amanda Stewart; Kathryn

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:

Marilyn Foley; Kadeem Broomes; Diane M.; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Mark & Winnie; Staff and Residence at Roberta Place; Brian W.; Cecilia Mowat; Jen Galicinski; Sheri Scott; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Stephanie; Fr. Murray; Amy P. & Family; Marg Abbott; Livia & Neil Purcell; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; Garn Mennell; Margaret & Gordon Kennedy; Paul & Rose McIntyre; Jim Tomkins; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Martin & Stephen Bertelsen; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Diocese of Butere (Kenya)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Christ Church (Bolton)