

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Service

November 10, 2021

11:00 a.m. Service

Wednesday Service

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11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: 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.

Act of Remembrance

Celebrant: God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble. *Psalms 46.1*

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. *Psalms 121.1-2*

This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. *Lamentations 3.21-23*

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary they shall walk and not faint. *Isaiah 40.31*

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? *Micah 6.8*

We meet in the presence of God. We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace. We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror. We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

People: We will remember them.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant: Ever-living God we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
People: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

All: **Eternal God, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning, grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE PSALMS

Psalm 82

Celebrant: God takes his stand in the council of heaven; *
People: **he gives judgement in the midst of the gods:**

Celebrant: "How long will you judge unjustly, *
People: **and show favour to the wicked?**

Celebrant: Save the weak and the orphan; *
People: **defend the humble and needy;**

Celebrant: Rescue the weak and the poor; *
People: **deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

Celebrant: They do not know, neither do they understand; they go about in darkness; *
People: **all the foundations of the earth are shaken.**

Celebrant: Now I say to you, 'You are gods, *
People: **and all of you children of the Most High;**

Celebrant: Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, *
People: **and fall like any prince."**

Celebrant: Arise, O God, and rule the earth, *
People: **for you shall take all nations for your own.**

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.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

READING: Revelation 18:21-24

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

And a strong angel took up a stone as it were a great millstone and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus, with a mighty fall shall Babylon, the great city, be cast down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harpers and minstrels and flute-players and trumpeters shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft, shall be found any more at all in thee; and the voice of a mill shall be heard no more at all in thee; and the light of a lamp shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the princes of the earth; for with thy sorcery were all the nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all that have been slain upon the earth.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 15:29-39

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.' The disciples said to him, 'Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?' Jesus asked them, 'How many loaves have you?'

They said, 'Seven, and a few small fish.' Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children. After sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON

“I have compassion for the crowds”

The Gospel story today starts with one person – Jesus – as he leaves the Canaanite and Gentile districts of Tyre and Sidon in Syria on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, travels some 40 miles or sixty kilometers south-east, crosses the Jordan River and heads along the east shore of the Sea of Galilee. Matthew then tells us that he enters the mountainous area to the east of the lake and sits down. It is here that great crowds, numbering in their thousands, join him.

Matthew describes these great crowds in this way (vs. 30), “Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others” – those who would choose to help “the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others” And those in obvious need. The great crowds are thus described as those who had compassion – who accompanied others in their suffering - and exercised it by bringing those in need to Jesus in spite of the implications of transporting and accompanying them to the wilderness in order to be with Jesus – to “put them at his feet”.

In this sense this is a crowd defined by those who helped as much as it was defined by those in need. Those who helped brought those in need into Jesus’ presence and served as a conduit to the compassionate restorative and healing ministry of Jesus. It is this vast crowd who are “amazed” when they saw “the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing”. It is this crowd – the companions, the compassionate, the broken, the deaf, the lame, the blind, the mute, the restored, the whole, and the healed who then “praised the God of Israel”.

It is this crowd, in their desperation and devotion, who have given up looking after their basic needs for sustenance in order to bring others to Jesus or to be healed and restored by Jesus that Jesus sees through the eyes of compassion. It is for this crowd that the disciples exclaim, “Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?”

The stories of the feeding of the thousands have an Exodus echo to them – God providing for the physical needs of the people of Israel in the midst of the wilderness. In this sense Jesus is a kind of Moses character who embodies the compassion of God to those in the wilderness – the space between slaver, bondage and brokenness and healing, wholeness, and restoration. It is Jesus who not only heals, restores and brings wholeness to the broken, but sustains those who serve as the conduits of his compassion who bring those in need to him. He achieves this by taking the meager offering in their hands – loaves and fish – to transform them into the generous abundance so characteristic of the Kingdom of God.

Each time we celebrate the Eucharist we are offered an opportunity to bring those who are broken, blinded, crippled, and silenced by life to the feet of Jesus that they might now be healing, wholeness and restoration. But simultaneously he looks on all of us with compassion and offers us afresh from the meager offering that we give the generous abundance of his grace that sustains us in all of life. Amen

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant: Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace: for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God; May God give peace

People: **God give peace**

Celebrant: for those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss; May God give peace

People: **God give peace**

Celebrant: for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return; May God give peace

People: **God give peace**

Celebrant: for civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity; May God give peace

People: **God give peace**

Celebrant: for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free; May God give peace

People: **God give peace**

Celebrant: for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace. May God give peace

People: **God give peace**

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER #2

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, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, he took flesh on the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will, he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so, he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices 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 comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, ‘Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you.’ In the same way he took the cup, saying, ‘This is the blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me.’

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, 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,

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**

BREAKING OF BREAD:

Celebrant: **“I am the bread of life,” say the Lord. “Whoever comes to me will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never thirst.”**
People: **Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in him!**

THE COMMUNION

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Glory to God
All: 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.

DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

NOTICES

THE BLESSING:

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore
All: **Amen.**

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Assisting today:

Celebrant: Rev. Alex Hewitt
Preacher: Fr. Alex
Video: Rev. 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 Fluke Family for the loss of Jeremiah; Lisa Marie; Cheryl C.; Peter Hubbard; Mark Ralston; Kim Middaugh; Pam Rees; Livia & Neil Purcell; Farrell & Frances McGinnis; Sophia L.; Jackson; Sally Smith; John & Terry; Marilyn Lloyd; Theresa & Pete; Dave Lawrence; Valerie; Stephen and Martin Bertelsen; Alvin Maynard; Amanda Rose; Darlene Jessem; Jim Tomkins; Doreen; Adesh; 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:

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; Cecilia Mowat; Laura Johnston; Marilyn Foley; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Fr. Murray; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; Gordon Kennedy; Paul & Rose McIntyre; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Diocese of Highveld – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Christ Church, Woodbridge