

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Service

November 24, 2021

11:00 a.m. Service

Wednesday Service

November 24, 2021

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

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.

Celebrant: Watch at all times, praying that you may stand before the Son of man. *Luke 21.36*

Canticle 7 The New Jerusalem *Isaiah 60.1–3, 11ab, 14cd, 18–19*

Celebrant: Arise, shine, for your light has come;

People: the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Celebrant: Though night still covers the earth

People: and darkness covers the nations,

Celebrant: Over you will the Lord arise,

People: over you will his glory appear.

Celebrant: Nations will stream to your light

People: and kings to your dawning brightness.

Celebrant: Your gates will always be open;

People: day or night, they will never be shut.

Celebrant: They will call you, The City of the Lord,

People: The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Celebrant: Violence will no more be heard in your land,

People: ruin or destruction within your borders;

Celebrant: you will name your walls, Salvation,

People: you will call your gates, Praise.

Celebrant: No longer will the sun be your light by day,

People: no longer the moon give you light by night;

Celebrant: the Lord will be your eternal light;
People: your God will be your glory. Amen.

THE PSALMS

Psalm 130

Celebrant: Out of the depths have I called you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;
People: let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

Celebrant: If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,
People: O Lord, who could stand?

Celebrant: For there is forgiveness with you;
People: therefore, you shall be feared.

Celebrant: I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;
People: in his word is my hope.

Celebrant: My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning,
People: more than watchmen for the morning.

Celebrant: O Israel, wait for the Lord,
People: for with the Lord there is mercy;

Celebrant: With him there is plenteous redemption,
People: and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

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: 1 Peter 2:1-10

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF PETER

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that

makes them fall.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 19:23-30

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING MATTHEW

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again, I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, ‘Then who can be saved?’ But Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.’

Then Peter said in reply, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON: Fr. Simon

The human predicament and grace

John and Charles Wesley were two of nineteen children born to the Revd. Samuel and Susannah Wesley in Epworth, England. Both pursued theological studies in Oxford, England and joined what they called the “Holy Club” in which they covenanted with each other to live disciplined Christian lives given to serious study of the Bible, prayer, fasting, and charitable works – what fellow students derogatory called Methodists. On the 24th of May 1738 John Wesley heard Psalm 130 being read before he went to a meeting at a Moravian meeting house in Aldersgate Street in London. He wrote in his journal: “In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed.”

Psalm 130 could best be described as “the human predicament and its dependence upon divine grace.” In these few verses we move from complete human despair to the joy and confidence of the work of God in resolving the human predicament through grace.

The Psalm starts with that wonderful description of the human condition and response to God, “Out of the depths have I called you”. In the tradition of the Psalms “the depth” is shorthand for the image or metaphor of “the depth of the sea” – that place of deep fear and dread where life overwhelms us and takes the very breath from us. But it places us into a position or posture of prayer – “I called to you”. “The depth” is more than simply a state of helplessness where we feel over-whelmed by life. It is also a state of being of our own human making and failing – “what is done amiss” - that requires the possibility of a new beginning to be found in and initiated through forgiveness. So, in verse three it flips from describing the human condition of despair to talk of the human anticipation of faith that God through grace will act to restore or resolve or reignite or reimagining what might be possible – “For there is forgiveness with you”.

The Psalm then flips back to the human response that anticipates that transformative grace, “I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; *in his word is my hope. My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, *more than watchmen for the morning.” It carries with it the anticipated imagery of a new day and a new beginning, a new possibility and the dawning of a new reality through grace. The Psalm then shifts from the individual Psalmist’s voice to an exhortation or a calling out to the crowd in vs. 6&7, “O Israel, wait for the Lord, *for with the Lord there is mercy; With him there is plenteous redemption, *and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.” It reminds us that salvation – the work of God to remedy the human condition through grace – is a corporate or communal experience that transforms the community and world around us. That the kingdom of God is lived out wherever the grace of God is found in human relationships and interaction.

Paul, in 1 Corinthians 15:1-3, writes “Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.” He refers to salvation – “being saved” – in the present continuous tense to indicate to us that conversion is not simply an event, but a life journey of continuous reorientation and dependence on the grace of God. This is not to suggest to us that our salvation is insecure and up for question, but rather that conversion is an ongoing journey of dealing with our human predicament – “continue to be saved” – as we trust in God’s gracious dealing with us each and every day. And while we might have those moment in life like John Wesley where we feel “strangely warmed” by the grace and presence of God, the grace of God is an ongoing reality in our lives that constantly rescues us from “the depths” of our human predicament and continuously lifts us to the light of God’s presence. 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 8

Celebrant: By your incarnation and your birth in poverty, by your baptism, your fasting, and your trials in the desert, O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison *or* Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: By your agony in the garden, by your cross and passion, by your death and burial, by your resurrection and ascension, and by the gift of your Holy Spirit, O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Celebrant: In times of trouble and in times of well-being, at the hour we die and on the day of your glory, O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Celebrant: Deliver us from war and violence, from hardness of heart and from contempt of your love and your promises; O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Celebrant: Enlighten our lives with your word, that in it we may find our way and our hope; O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Celebrant: Assist your people in every land, govern them in peace and justice, defend them from the enemies of life; O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

All: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: **Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world. Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and bring us to eternal light and joy; through the power of him who is alive 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**

DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

NOTICES: Restarting 8:30 service on Nov 28th (Advent 1)
Advent Study Group – Revd. Susan Snelling – Mondays starting on 29th of November via Zoom entitled ‘Almost Christmas’. \$20 study guide.
Advent-Christmas daily devotions via Church of England 'At the heart of Christmas'.
Contact Father Simon or Amy for more details.
Pick up your Christmas letter with service details on it.

THE BLESSING:
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. Simon Bell
Preacher: Fr. Simon
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:

Lorraine Whitwell; Sharron Snider; Darlene Rose & Family; Daphne; Lisa Marie; Cheryl C.; Peter Hubbard; Mark Ralston; Kim Middaugh; Pam Rees; Livia & Neil Purcell; Farrell & Frances McGinnis; Jackson; Sally Smith; John & Terry; Marilyn Lloyd; Theresa & Pete; Dave Lawrence; Valerie; Stephen and Martin Bertelsen; Alvin Maynard; 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:

Sophia L.; 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; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; 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 Ibba (South Sudan)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Lay Members of Synod