

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Service

November 3, 2021

11:00 a.m. Service

Wednesday Service

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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: If you love me, you will keep my word, and my Father will love you, and we will come to you. *John 14.23*

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever.

People: Amen.

THE PSALMS

Psalm 72

Celebrant: Give the king your justice, O God,

People: and your righteousness to the king's son;

Celebrant: That he may rule your people righteously

People: and the poor with justice;

Celebrant: That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,

People: and the little hills bring righteousness.

Celebrant: He shall defend the needy among the people;

People: he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

Celebrant: He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,

People: from one generation to another.

Celebrant: He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
People: **like showers that water the earth.**

Celebrant: In his time shall the righteous flourish;
People: **there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

Celebrant: He shall rule from sea to sea,
People: **and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

Celebrant: His foes shall bow down before him,
People: **and his enemies lick the dust.**

Celebrant: The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
People: **and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

Celebrant: All kings shall bow down before him,
People: **and all the nations do him service.**

Celebrant: For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
People: **and the oppressed who has no helper.**

Celebrant: He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;
People: **he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

Celebrant: He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
People: **and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

Celebrant: Long may he live! and may there be given to him gold from Arabia;
People: **may prayer be made for him always, and may they bless him all the day long.**

Celebrant: May there be abundance of grain on the earth, growing thick even on the hilltops;
People: **may its fruit flourish like Lebanon, and its grain like grass upon the earth.**

Celebrant: May his name remain for ever and be established as long as the sun endures;
People: **may all the nations bless themselves in him and call him blessed.**

Celebrant: Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
People: **who alone does wondrous deeds!**

Celebrant: And blessed be his glorious name for ever!
People: **and may all the earth be filled with his glory.**

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 12:1-12

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death. Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!’

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 13:1-17

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 13:53-58

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, ‘Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?’ And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, ‘Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.’ And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON: Fr. Simon

In the Incarnation, the cosmic becomes the everyday and the mundane, the ordinary and the predictable. But with the eyes of faith, we are invited into the bigger picture and the larger unfolding story.

The Revelation of John is the invitation for us to gaze at the bigger story, the unfolding narrative of God at work throughout the cosmos to bring about the plan of salvation for the restoration of all things in Christ. In Revelation 12 that bigger story is the cosmic battle over good and evil. Not of two equal forces, but of a rebellion by some of the very things or beings God has created against God's purpose. Within the cosmic story the outcome is predictable and obvious – the greater force of God wins out in the end, but there is a significant fall out and cosmic implications to the rebellion. The whole point of the book of Revelation being, in spite of all the confusing imagery and conflicting interpretation of the text, is that God wins. Period!

As John writes, “Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death. Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them!’”

The struggle for many of us is that we want to reduce Jesus to the guy down the road who is all too familiar to us. Like his neighbours in Nazareth, we struggle to imagine the person who grew up in our midst and whose family story is all too familiar to us can be anything but the guy who fixed our door or put the roof on our house or who crafted the things we use each day and that are so every day and mundane.

It is not as if this view of Jesus is not contradicted by the ongoing reality of who he is and what he does. As the folk in his own hometown reflect, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power?” Their struggle is like ours, we cannot balance the mundane of the incarnation with the incredible capacity of Jesus to speak into our lives, to offer us more than we imagined possible or to push us beyond ourselves. We, like them, might be drawn to the same conclusion that this is beyond his capacity – way outside of the realm of the incarnation.

This has been a struggle of the Church throughout history – to balance the Incarnation of Jesus with his Divinity, the historical Jesus with the Jesus of faith. But that is the point, there comes a point when faith is required of us and the question is whether we, like the folk in Nazareth, are so obsessed with the mundane and ordinary Jesus that we cannot even respond in faith.

Pray God that as we journey through these last few weeks of the Season of Pentecost we might be drawn from the immediate and the mundane to see the fullness of Christ present for us. That through the eyes of faith we might see the larger cosmic picture of Christ present restoring all things, offering salvation to all things and inviting all things to be reconciled in Him.

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

We remember the great ancestors of our faith, from Abraham and Sarah, to Paul and Phoebe:
Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.

We remember the prophets and priests, the ministers and teachers who have taught us the way of God:
Teachers of the faith, we remember you.

We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles, those who have gone before us in our lifetime:
Family of our faith, we remember you.

We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and parents whose lives ended too soon:
Those close in our heart, we remember you.

We lift up to You, O God, the names of those we have lost in this past year from our lives, knowing that they are with Your heart forever.

(Reading of the names of those who have died in the past year.)

John Wilce
Emily Duncan
Randy Catton
Rene Marie Sears
Douglas Pauley
Stephen Bishop
Otilie "Tillie" Bertram
Albert Noseworthy
Grace Thompson
Kevin Woodward
Mary Motolko

Charles "Bud" Ellis
Richard Desroches
Brian Kulczycki
Jervis Goddard
Lily Locke
Alan Freiber
Andrew Hoffman
Mildred Stewart
Estelle Barben
John (Jack) Barben

We celebrate the lives of those we have named, O God, and lift up many more names in our hearts.

Family of God, we remember you, and we honour you. We know you are with us in the spirit of worship, and you will not be forgotten.

We give thanks, O God, for all who have gone on to join with You beyond this life. We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ, and know that in our grief and celebration, O God,

You are with us through it all, and we are not left alone. In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray.

All: Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: Almighty God, whose chosen servant Abraham obeyed your call, rejoicing in your promise that in him the family of the earth is blessed, give us faith like his, that in us your promises may be fulfilled; 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

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. 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:

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 Hanuato'o – The Anglican Church of Melanesia

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

St. Matthew, First Avenue