

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Service

October 20, 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: The Son of man came also not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. *Mark 10.45*

Silence is kept.

People: Amen.

VENITE

Psalm 95.1–7

Celebrant: Come, let us sing to the Lord;

People: let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Celebrant: Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

People: and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

Celebrant: For the Lord is a great God,

People: and a great king above all gods.

Celebrant: In his hand are the caverns of the earth,

People: and the heights of the hills are his also.

Celebrant: The sea is his for he made it,

People: and his hands have moulded the dry land.

Celebrant: Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

People: and kneel before the Lord our maker.

Celebrant: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

People: Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The Psalms

Psalm 38

Celebrant: O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger;

People: **do not punish me in your wrath.**

Celebrant: For your arrows have already pierced me,

People: **and your hand presses hard upon me.**

Celebrant: There is no health in my flesh, because of your indignation;

People: **there is no soundness in my body, because of my sin.**

Celebrant: For my iniquities overwhelm me;

People: **like a heavy burden they are too much for me to bear.**

Celebrant: My wounds stink and fester

People: **by reason of my foolishness.**

Celebrant: I am utterly bowed down and prostrate;

People: **I go about in mourning all the day long.**

Celebrant: My loins are filled with searing pain;

People: **there is no health in my body.**

Celebrant: I am utterly numb and crushed;

People: **I wail, because of the groaning of my heart.**

Celebrant: O Lord, you know all my desires,

People: **and my sighing is not hidden from you.**

Celebrant: My heart is pounding, my strength has failed me,

People: **and the brightness of my eyes is gone from me.**

Celebrant: My friends and companions draw back from my affliction;

People: **my neighbours stand afar off.**

Celebrant: Those who seek after my life lay snares for me;

People: **those who strive to hurt me speak of my ruin and plot treachery all the day long.**

Celebrant: But I am like the deaf who do not hear,

People: **like those who are mute and do not open their mouth.**

Celebrant: I have become like one who does not hear,

People: **and from whose mouth comes no defence.**

Celebrant: For in you, O Lord, have I fixed my hope;

People: **you will answer me, O Lord my God.**

Celebrant: For I said, "Do not let them rejoice at my expense,

People: **those who gloat over me when my foot slips."**

Celebrant: Truly, I am on the verge of falling,
People: and my pain is always with me.

Celebrant: I will confess my iniquity
People: and be sorry for my sin.

Celebrant: Those who are my enemies without cause are mighty,
People: and many in number are those who wrongfully hate me.

Celebrant: Those who repay evil for good slander me,
People: because I follow the course that is right.

Celebrant: O Lord, do not forsake me;
People: be not far from me, O my God.

Celebrant: Make haste to help me,
People: O Lord of my salvation.

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: 15:51-58

A reading from the first book of Corinthians

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 12:1-16

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

At that time Jesus went through the cornfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, 'Look, your disciples are

doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath.’ He said to them, ‘Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, “I desire mercy and not sacrifice”, you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.’

He left that place and entered their synagogue; a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, ‘Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?’ so that they might accuse him. He said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So, it is lawful to do good on the sabbath.’ Then he said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them and he ordered them not to make him known.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON: Amy Pauley

Sabbath is the day to rest in God. It’s a whole day of the week to take a break from our work. We may respond, “A whole day? Really? There’s so much work to do!” But God says back, “I desire mercy and not sacrifice.” In daily life, in making choices, in getting through the week, Jesus wants us to practice mercy – for others and ourselves. Mercy is compassion, forgiveness, and kindness.

In today’s gospel, mercy is understanding that hunger and illness are not what God wants. The disciples are hungry, so they pick grain. A man has a withered hand, so Jesus heals him. At the time, picking grain and healing are both considered work. The Pharisees accuse Jesus and his followers of working and so, they are breaking the Sabbath law. Doing work on the Sabbath is a big deal. It’s breaking one of the 10 Commandments! (Exodus chapter 20, verse 8 to 10, reads): *“Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work.”*

Pharisees were the rule followers. And following the law is mostly a good thing. But Jesus rejects using God’s law on others in a way that is unmerciful. Because God is merciful – forgiving and loving. And the whole point of the Sabbath Day is to spend time with God. Sabbath is time to take a break – to rest in the peaceful connection with God.

Right now, today, does it feel like we’re breaking the law when we take time to rest? Today, we don’t have the Pharisees. We have a culture that tells us to work, to make money, to keep busy, to be productive, to keep going. The more you do, the more valuable you are. Maybe we don’t think we’re worth a Sabbath. We may say to ourselves, “If I’m not doing something, I’m not good enough.” In the busyness of life – it’s easy to think our time needs to be productive.

But what about God’s time? In creation, God rests on the seventh day. All of existence – life – God sees, and says, “This Is good.” God doesn’t need Sabbath; divine time doesn’t run out.

God's Sabbath Day is telling us about the nature of God. God takes time to notice, to know, and to love creation. God gives us full attention. The divine has the power to give us infinite time. That means – we can take as much time as we need with God.

God doesn't need our Sabbath; We need Sabbath with God. We all need time to rest in unconditional love and connection. God is the only one that can provide this love. Because we're human, we get tired, and we need rest. But God's love is always available, never exhausted, and completely free. This is the kind of powerful love that transforms. It's the kind of love we draw on in our relationships with each other.

It takes time to appreciate and rest in loving connection. Do we expect to stay connected with friends if we never spend time together? What happens when we stop talking to our friends? We drift apart.

Spending time with God is like spending time with friends. You know, when you get together to talk, play games, have dinner, or watch a show. It's not necessarily productive and it's not likely money-making. With friends, we don't have to be doing anything. It's us together – and we have these times, in between activity, and we just appreciate the sheer fact that we are together.

This is what God offers to us in Sabbath. It's our time with God. And we can talk to God as a person. Prayer is talking to and being with Jesus. And it can also be resting with God – in crying and in telling jokes; in having memories and in doing activities. There are all kinds of ways to make time with God. And like being with our friends, it is not time wasted. And we are not alone. We are resting in the peaceful solitude of friendship with God.

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

9 Morning

(Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord for a day of fulfilment and peace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord to teach us to love others as he has loved us.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord for peace and justice in the world.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord to strengthen and relieve those who are in need.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Let us ask the Lord to renew the Church through the power of his life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: Almighty and everliving God, increase in us your gift of faith, that forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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: Amy Pauley
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:

Mark Ralston; Pam Rees; Livia & Neil Purcell; Peter, Linda and the Court Family; The Ellis Family; Farrell & Frances McGinnis; Sophia L.; Jackson; Colleen; 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:

Carrie Snow; Sheri Scott; Kim; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wally Raymond; Christine; Audrey Moody; Lynda Raye; Ray Wilson; 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:

Diocese of Grafton (Australia)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Resurrection