

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

161 Hanmer St. W., Barrie, On L4N 7S1 (705) 721-9528 www.stmargaretbarrie.ca

Email: stmarg@rogers.com

Fax: (705) 721-9455



Wednesday Service

October 27, 2021

11:00 a.m. Service

Wednesday Service

October 27, 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: Our Saviour Jesus Christ has abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. *2 Timothy 1.10*

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 119:49-72

Celebrant: Remember your word to your servant, *

People: because you have given me hope.

Celebrant: This is my comfort in my trouble, *

People: that your promise gives me life.

Celebrant: The proud have derided me cruelly, *

People: but I have not turned from your law.

Celebrant: When I remember your judgements of old, *

People: O Lord, I take great comfort.

Celebrant: I am filled with a burning rage, *

People: because of the wicked who forsake your law.

Celebrant: Your statutes have been like songs to me
People: **wherever I have lived as a stranger.**

Celebrant: I remember your name in the night, O Lord, *
People: **and dwell upon your law.**

Celebrant: This is how it has been with me, *
People: **because I have kept your commandments.**

Celebrant: You only are my portion, O Lord; *
People: **I have promised to keep your words.**

Celebrant: I entreat you with all my heart, *
People: **be merciful to me according to your promise.**

Celebrant: I have considered my ways *
People: **and turned my feet toward your decrees.**

Celebrant: I hasten and do not tarry *
People: **to keep your commandments.**

Celebrant: Though the cords of the wicked entangle me, *
People: **I do not forget your law.**

Celebrant: At midnight I will rise to give you thanks, *
People: **because of your righteous judgements.**

Celebrant: I am a companion of all who fear you *
People: **and of those who keep your commandments.**

Celebrant: The earth, O Lord, is full of your love; *
People: **instruct me in your statutes.**

Celebrant: O Lord, you have dealt graciously with your servant, *
People: **according to your word.**

Celebrant: Teach me discernment and knowledge, *
People: **for I have believed in your commandments.**

Celebrant: Before I was afflicted I went astray, *
People: **but now I keep your word.**

Celebrant: You are good and you bring forth good; *
People: **instruct me in your statutes.**

Celebrant: The proud have smeared me with lies, *
People: **but I will keep your commandments with my whole heart.**

Celebrant: Their heart is gross and fat, *
People: **but my delight is in your law.**

Celebrant: It is good for me that I have been afflicted, *
People: **that I might learn your statutes.**

Celebrant: The law of your mouth is dearer to me *
People: **than thousands in gold and silver.**

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: 5:1-10

A reading from the book of Revelation

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.

Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!” Then the disciples came and asked him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” He answered, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that ‘seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.’ With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: ‘You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

For this people’s heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them.’ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON: Fr. Simon

But blessed are your eyes and ears

The Psalmist (119:49-72) writes, “Remember your word to your servant, because you have given me hope. This is my comfort in my trouble, that your promise gives me life.” If the word of God has this sort of capacity, then who are we to change, spoil or discard it? Who are we to take these very seeds of life and ignore them?

In this opening chapter of the book of Revelation, John has a vision of a scroll with seven seals holding its contents from him. The voice of an angel asks the rhetorical question, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals” to make the point that none, other than Jesus, is worthy of this task. Jesus’ worthiness to break the seals and to open the scroll is because he has embodied in his life and passion the very intention of the Word – to bring life and hope to all. And, as John makes plain in his Gospel account, because Jesus is the Word who embodies the very utterance of God.

But as Isaiah acknowledges, not all of us see it this way. Some intentionally fail to understand or perceive even though they see or listen and thus fail to receive the hope and life they are offer. “You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive.” As Jesus makes clear in the parable of the sower, it is a question of intention and priority.

For some of us there is no intention on our part to even see or listen. For others of us there is a desire to see and listen, but no desire to imbed the Good News of the Gospel deep within our being or to prioritise it above the cares and constraints of life. But for some of us there is this abiding reality that we take the Word of God uttered to us and imbed it so deep within us that it transforms our very existence and brings life and hope to others – it bears fruit and offers more seed.

In Matthew’s Gospel it is those who embed the seeds of the Word of God, the disciples, who are perplexed about why Jesus communicates in parables. It is to those who the “secrets of the kingdom of heaven” are revealed because of their attentiveness to listen who find it hard to palate that others are not

“in on the secret”. But it is to them that Jesus utters the assurance, “But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.” It is to them that he gives the assurance that they are privileged to be part of something that others longed for or looked towards. That not only are they amongst those who respond to Jesus’ injunction “Let anyone with ears listen!” But they are also to be numbered amongst those who get to hear the embodiment of God in their midst and see the kingdom made real. They are also those, like John in Revelation, who see the unfolding of the fullness of the story and get to proclaim it to those of us who now have an opportunity to hear and see, to understand and perceive, to know hope and life and be blessed. They are us.

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

I ask your prayers for God’s people throughout the world, for this gathering, for our Bishop Andrew and Bishop Ricylla and for all ministers and people.

I ask your prayers for peace, for goodwill among nations, and for the well-being of all people.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for the mission of the Church. Pray for the coming of God’s kingdom among all nations and peoples.

I ask your prayers for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to God alone. Pray that God may be glorified in all his saints.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery, free us from the tyranny of sin and death, and by the leading of your Spirit bring us to our promised land; 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.

+++++

Service of Morning Prayer taken from the The Book of Alternative Services. Copyright 1985 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Biblical texts taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

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:

Mark Ralston; Pam Rees; Livia & Neil Purcell; 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 Diocese of Gujarat (India)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

St. John the Baptist, Norway