

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

September 1, 2021

11:00 a.m. Service

Wednesday Service

September 1, 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: The Father brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. *James 1.18*

VENITE

**All: Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God,
and a great king above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our maker.**

**For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Amen.

PSALM 95.1-7

The Psalms

Celebrant: My soul cleaves to the dust;
People: **give me life according to your word.**

Celebrant: I have confessed my ways, and you answered me;
People: **instruct me in your statutes.**

Celebrant: Make me understand the way of your commandments,
People: **that I may meditate on your marvellous works.**

Celebrant: My soul melts away for sorrow;
People: **strengthen me according to your word.**

Celebrant: Take from me the way of lying;
People: **let me find grace through your law.**

Celebrant: I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
People: **I have set your judgements before me.**

Celebrant: I hold fast to your decrees;
People: **O Lord, let me not be put to shame.**

Celebrant: I will run the way of your commandments,
People: **for you have set my heart at liberty.**

He

Celebrant: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
People: **and I shall keep it to the end.**

Celebrant: Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;
People: **shall keep it with all my heart.**

Celebrant: Make me go in the path of your commandments,
People: **for that is my desire.**

Celebrant: Incline my heart to your decrees
People: **and not to unjust gain.**

Celebrant: Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;
People: **give me life in your ways.**

Celebrant: Fulfil your promise to your servant,
People: **which you make to those who fear you.**

Celebrant: Turn away the reproach which I dread,
People: **because your judgements are good.**

Celebrant: Behold, I long for your commandments;
People: **in your righteousness preserve my life.**

Waw

Celebrant: Let your loving-kindness come to me, O Lord,
People: and your salvation, according to your promise.

Celebrant: Then shall I have a word for those who taunt me,
People: because I trust in your words.

Celebrant: Do not take the word of truth out of my mouth,
People: for my hope is in your judgements.

Celebrant: I shall continue to keep your law;
People: I shall keep it for ever and ever.

Celebrant: I will walk at liberty,
People: because I study your commandments.

Celebrant: I will tell of your decrees before kings
People: and will not be ashamed.

Celebrant: I delight in your commandments,
People: which I have always loved.

Celebrant: I will lift up my hands to your commandments,
People: and I will meditate on your statutes.

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

FIRST READING: James 3:1-12

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also, the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can saltwater yield fresh.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 15:1-11

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ He answered him, ‘You say so.’ Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, ‘Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.’ But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So, the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, ‘Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?’ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON: Fr. Simon

Faith and Consistency

James starts off this chapter of his letter with the warning, “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.” He reminds us that those who choose to instruct others in their faith have a greater responsibility for what they say and need to have an added vigilance to how they express themselves. But he does so with the recognition of our human frailty, “For all of us make many mistakes.”

He then breaks into a series of analogies or images of the power of control as it relates to the tongue, by starting with the positive suggestion that the one who can completely control their tongue has complete mastery of themselves. He draws on the image of a horse being controlled by a bit in its mouth or a ship being controlled by a rudder. While proportionately small to the whole size of a horse or ship, both of these have immense control in giving direction to the whole. In this sense when we control our tongue – how we express ourselves and articulate our thoughts – then we demonstrate a greater capacity to control the fuller sense of who we are.

Yet, as James points out, the reverse is also true. There are times when we can say something and unleash a Pandora's Box of possibilities that are way out of our control. The image he draws upon is one that is all too familiar to us this summer – that of a wild fire. While it may be started by one small incident it spreads to create great devastation. He carries the image to its extreme by suggesting that the tongue has the capacity to set on fire and bring destruction to the fullness of who we are – “it stains the whole body” – and its implications go beyond us and is inclusive of both the natural and spiritual realms of our existence.

James draws this passage together by coming again the image of human control of nature – “for every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species” – but contrasts this with our human inability to control our tongues. His point is to raise the reality of the inconsistency of our human existence demonstrated by our tongue – “With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing” - in order to suggest that this is inconstant with God's call on our lives – “My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.”

James then draws on the same imagery found in John's Gospel of the vine and the branches – that those who “bear the fruit of Christ” in their lives do so as a demonstration of their lives as learning followers or disciples of Jesus. In this sense it brings us back full circle to the opening of the chapter and the nature of being teachers. Those who teach or instruct others to follow Christ do so as those who are learning followers themselves who live lives that are consistent with the life of Christ. Whose worship of God is consistent with their valuing of those made in the image of God, who say what they do and do what they say. When we go to pick figs we do not expect to get olives. Or when we go to pick grapes we do not expect to get figs. When we go to draw fresh water we do not expect it to be brackish or salty.

Pray God that we might live lives so consistent with the life of Jesus that what we say may be consistent with what we do. That our Yes might be Yes and our No may be No. That as much as we chose to love God with every ounce of our being that we would choose to love our fellow human beings as much as we love ourselves.

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 (Litany #9 morning)

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

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

All: Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: Author and Giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us in all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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/Preacher: Rev. Simon Bell

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:

Marilyn Lloyd; Marg Abbott; Stephen and Martin Bertelsen; Alvin Maynard; Kathy H.; Sylvia Ralston; Amanda Rose; Mark Ralston; Darlene Jessem; Jim Tomkins; Judy Virtanen; Lawrence Bornais; Garn Menell; Doreen; Alan Proudlove; Anthony Sacco; Sally Rees & her mom; Michelle Sinclair, Mom and Family; Livia & Neil Purcell; Adesh; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Sheri Scott; Audrey Moody; Wally Raymond; Christine; Kim; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wendy; Brenda Jessem; Shirley; Lynda Raye; Kilravey; Rhonda; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean; Amanda Stewart; Kathryn

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:

Lorraine Whitwell; Jane & Ron Lewis; Theresa & Pete; Cecilia Mowat; Tanya Bowskill; Sophia L; Jane Tutty; Jean Glionna; Dorothy & Chuck; Kevin Hamann; Laura Johnston; Marilyn Foley; Kadeem Broomes; Diane M.; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Stephanie; Fr. Murray; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Ray & 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 Ekiti West (Nigeria)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

St. Luke, Rosemont