

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 22, 2021

11:00 a.m. Service

Wednesday Service

September 22, 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: God has called us through the gospel, so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. *2 Thessalonians 2.14*

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 82

Celebrant: God takes his stand in the council of heaven;

People: he gives judgement in the midst of the gods:

Celebrant: “How long will you judge unjustly,

People: and show favour to the wicked?

Celebrant: Save the weak and the orphan;

People: defend the humble and needy;

Celebrant: Rescue the weak and the poor;

People: deliver them from the power of the wicked.

Celebrant: They do not know, neither do they understand; they go about in darkness;

People: all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

Celebrant: Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,

People: and all of you children of the Most High;

Celebrant: Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
People: and fall like any prince.”

Celebrant: Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
People: for you shall take all nations for your own.

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: A reading from the First Book of Corinthians 5:9-6:8

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral persons—not at all meaning the immoral of this world, or the greedy and robbers, or idolaters, since you would then need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother or sister who is sexually immoral or greedy, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or robber. Do not even eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging those outside? Is it not those who are inside that you are to judge? God will judge those outside. ‘Drive out the wicked person from among you.’

When any of you has a grievance against another, do you dare to take it to court before the unrighteous, instead of taking it before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels—to say nothing of ordinary matters? If you have ordinary cases, then, do you appoint as judges those who have no standing in the church? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to decide between one believer and another, but a believer goes to court against a believer—and before unbelievers at that? In fact, to have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? But you yourselves wrong and defraud—and believers at that.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

THE HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW (5:38-48)

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

‘You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your

Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON: Fr. Simon

Relating to those within and outside of the community of faith

One of the constant dilemmas of the Psalms is the way that God relates to those who are seen as “evil”. So, the Psalmist accuses God of favouritism in Psalm 98, ““How long will you judge unjustly, *and show favour to the wicked?” From the Psalmist’s perspective God is not fair because God works to the favour of those who the Psalmist sees as evil. That is the whole point behind the book of Jonah – the idea that God shows mercy to those who are evil and who are clearly the enemies of the God’s chosen people.

Jesus reminds us that it is not that God shows favour, but rather that God shows impartiality, for God “makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.” In other words, God is equally compassionate to those who live in right relationship with God (the righteous) and those who live in a fractured relationship to God.

Each of these passages for I Corinthians and Matthew 5 talk about relationships and primarily how we are to relate to those within and outside of the faith community. First Corinthians is written to a church community that was deeply fractured and is an appeal for unity, but it is not unity at all costs. The issue that 1 Corinthians 5 and 6 deals with is how we relate to those in the church who are clearly living a life that is not consistent with what it would mean to be a disciple of Jesus – those within the church who are “sexually immoral or greedy, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or robber” – and those who have offended us. The list of transgression are all expressions of a person who is clearly living a life for their own gratification and, in the Greco-Roman world at the time, participated in things associated with worship in Greco-Roman temples. This intention not to associate with these individuals and, by association, not to share hospitality with them, is offset by the injunction by Paul to seek reconciliation within the community of faith where harm has been done and where fracturing has been an outcome.

In contrast, we are meant to live in a very different relationship who we might think of as the “immoral of this world” – “greedy and robbers, or idolaters” – because we simply live in their midst. They are the sea of humanity who we swim in whether we like it or not. But our difficulty is that we do not exist in such a world as if it is neutral towards us. Jesus, in Matthew’s Gospel, picks up on the idea of how we live with those who are intentionally antagonistic towards us – those we might regard as our “enemies”. Our response is meant to echo the very nature of God and God’s response, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Each of the descriptions that Jesus uses – being struck on your cheek, having your coat taken from you, walking the extra mile, being begged from – were common experiences in Jesus’ day under Roman occupation. Each of them calls for an alternative response that is not about vengeance or getting even – an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth – but rather learning to show love even to those outside of the community of faith who would want to do us harm. That call to be “perfect” is a call to respond wholistically – from the fullness of my being – as God would respond.

None of this is easy or automatic. None of this is instinctual or predictable. Most of us want to respond like the Psalmist and shout out to God, “How long will you judge unjustly, *and show favour to the wicked?” And most of us have to stop short and reflect upon the nature of God’s mercy and grace. But clearly, we are called to act different as followers of Jesus, both to those within the community of faith and to those outside of it. A much higher standard is expected of us both in terms of how we relate to each other and how we relate to those who do not share out faith with us or are antagonistic towards us. Pray that God might direct us to have clear and obvious boundaries that are healthy and good that give us the space to respond with grace and compassion when called to do so. 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

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Celebrant: Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

All: All Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in danger.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Heal the sick in body and mind, and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Show your pity on prisoners and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Faith and those whose faith is known to you alone and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

All: Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth, and ourselves in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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: Blessing of Pets

We will be celebrating the Feast of St Francis on Sunday the 10th of October with a blessing of pets at 11:30 a.m. Weather permitting, the service will be held on the church lawn. Please bring your pets for the service and encourage your neighbours to do likewise.

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:

Colleen H.; Sally Smith; John & Terry; Carrie Snow; Marilyn Lloyd; Marg Abbott; Theresa & Pete; Dave Lawrence; Valerie; Stephen and Martin Bertelsen; Alvin Maynard; Kathy H.; Sylvia Ralston; Amanda Rose; Mark Ralston; Darlene Jessem; Jim Tomkins; Ray Wilson; Lawrence Bornais; Roxanne Reid & Family & The Goodyer Family; Garn Mennell; Lorraine Whitwell; 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:

Judy Virtanen; Jane & Ron Lewis; 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; 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 Fianarantsoa (Madagascar)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

St. Anne, Toronto