

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday, February 10, 2021

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	Dave Flavelle	
Sidesperson Co-ord.	Kevin LeMoine	(705) 252-6528
Audio/Visual	David Paradis	

Wednesday Service

February 10, 2021

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant: Lord, open our lips,

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Celebrant: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us. 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.

Alleluia!

Celebrant: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us: O come, let us worship.

Jubilate

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. Know this: The Lord himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Psalms

Psalm 82

God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgement: 'How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah*

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.'

They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

I say, 'You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.

Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!

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.

People: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The Readings

A reading from **2 Timothy 1:15-2:13**

You are aware that all who are in Asia have turned away from me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chain; when he arrived in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me—may the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! And you know very well how much service he rendered in Ephesus.

You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK 10:1-16

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

He left that place and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan. And crowds again gathered around him; and as was his custom, he again taught them. Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh." So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.'

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive

the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

Entrust to faithful people in grace

Paul and Timothy had a very particular type of relationship. Paul was Timothy’s faithful mentor and partner in ministry and Timothy was Paul’s faithful student and partner right to the very bitter end. Here is Paul writing his second personal letter to Timothy while he is imprisoned in Rome, chained and waiting to be executed. Timothy is out in the field pastoring another church and worrying about his mentor and friend Paul. Together they have planted churches all over the eastern expanses of the Roman Empire. Together they have co-written letters, like that to the church in Philippi. Together they have faced all sorts of trials, tribulations, beatings, imprisonments, shipwrecks and opposition. Together they have found joy and fruitfulness in ministry. Together they have learnt and grown, thought and prayed, served and taught, pastored and preached. And now they are apart and Paul is trying to encourage Timothy to keep going with what he has faithfully learnt.

So, while others have abandoned Paul in his moment of greatest need – like many in the church in Asia that Paul and Timothy have raised in the faith – there are some that have stuck by Paul and sought out his wellbeing. But it is to Timothy that he wishes to entrust his last thoughts in writing. It is to Timothy that he wants to entrust all of his sacrifice and diligence, his commitment and his compassion – the very faith that he has been responsible for.

The whole point of Paul’s theology is the grace of God. That God in Christ took the initiative in offering us grace in order that we might be reconciled to God, our neighbour and ourselves. Paul wants Timothy to remain strong in that free gift of grace – to keep going back to it over and over again as the foundation of life. Paul recognises that a life of ministry is only sustained by the grace of God and in not in the skill or effort of our own. That without grace life, faith and ministry is simply not sustainable. That ultimately the foundation of our ministry as followers of Jesus – the very thing we embody and live out each day – is the grace of God. That everything else we do in the ministering life of the church – whether we are teaching or preaching, reading or praying, serving soup or sandwiches, counting money or ordering the administrative life of the church, washing dishes or serving coffee – revolves around the hub of grace.

The whole point about faith is that it is meant to be shared – it is meant to be entrusted. So, Paul writes to Timothy, “what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to other people who will be able to teach others as well”. If I entrust something to you, I hand it over to you as something beloved to myself because I know you will hold it as beloved to yourself. If I entrust something to you then I don’t thrust it down your throat or demand some obligation of you or emotionally manipulate or guilt you into taking it or make it into a burden that seems unbearable or bribe you into a sense of obligation. I give it to you with grace and compassion out of a sense of knowing that you would gladly take it and make it your own. Passing on our faith is meant to be that way – it is meant to be done with grace and compassion and because we have built up a relationship of trust that is mutually honouring and honest.

One of the key concepts in this portion of Paul's letter to Timothy is faithfulness. Many in the church in Asia – including Phygelus and Hermogenes – were not faithful to Paul. While others, like Onesiphorus, were profoundly faithful and have proved themselves faithful in one context (Ephesus) and proved themselves faithful in others (Rome). Paul picks up on that idea again when he refers to those Timothy is to entrust what he has been entrusted with, namely those who are faithful. In essence Paul's call on Timothy to "share in suffering" – to show true compassion in suffering with another – is hallmarked by faithfulness. And true faithfulness is modelled on Christ who, even "if we are faithless", will remain "faithful for he cannot deny himself.

In essence that brings us all the way full-circle to grace. Christ in his passion showed faithful compassion even though we had not demonstrated faithfulness to him. Christ – in giving himself for us that we might be restored to the image of God – was faithful to us because he could not deny that image in us. Christ, in calling us to be "strong in grace" recognises that we - like the brothers and sisters in faith in the church in Asia – might not be faithful to him or to those who have entrusted the faith to us. But we, like Timothy, can be like the soldier or athlete or farmer who sticks at it and invest ourselves fully in what we are called to do irrespective of the personal cost and demonstrate that we are faithful to the very end. And even if we cannot then we know with assurance that we need to come back to that place or grace for God in Christ is ever faithful to us.

People: **Amen**

Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O Israel

People: **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

Litany 18 A Responsive Intercession

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Celebrant: For all people in their daily life and work;

People: **For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.**

Celebrant: For this community, our country, and the world;

People: **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Celebrant: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Celebrant: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Celebrant: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
People: For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

Celebrant: *For Andrew* our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;
People: For all who serve God in his Church.

Celebrant: For our own needs and those of others. Hear us, Lord;

People: For your mercy is great.

Celebrant: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We will exalt you, O God our king;
People: And praise your name for ever and ever.

Celebrant: We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

People: Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
People: in your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Collect

Celebrant: Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen

The Lord's Prayer:

Officiant: 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:

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Notices

Blessing:

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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Assisting Rev. Simon today:

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Simon Bell
Video: David Paradis

This morning in our worship we remember in our prayers those of our family and friends who have immediate needs and concerns:

Steph & Keith Worthington; Sharon & Marianne; Brennan Family; Derek; Rachelle Bellegem and her family; Teresa & Pete; Jaxon Croft; Ron & Jane Lewis; Staff and Residence at Roberta Place; Michelle & Ian Sinclair; Sean; Brian W.; Kevin H.; Diane M.; Cecilia Mowat; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Sophia L; Marianne S.; Amanda Stewart; Kathryn; Kadeem Broomes; Anna Sellers; Marty; Brenda & Brian.

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:

Brenda Jessem; Jen Galicinski; Sheri Scott; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Stephanie; Fr. Murray; Amy P. & Family; Marg Abbott; Livia & Neil Purcell; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Michelle & Ian Sinclair; Donna Wilson; Garn Mennell; Margaret & Gordon Kennedy; Paul & Rose McIntyre; Jim Tomkins; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Martin & Stephen Bertelsen; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Dioceses of Angola

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

St. Paul, Newmarket