

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday, January 20, 2021

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

Wednesday Service

January 13, 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 38

O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger, or discipline me in your wrath.

For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me.

There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.

My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness;

I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all day long I go around mourning.

For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh.

I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

O Lord, all my longing is known to you; my sighing is not hidden from you.

My heart throbs, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.

My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction and my neighbours stand far off.

Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin and meditate treachery all day long.

But I am like the deaf, I do not hear; like the mute, who cannot speak.

Truly, I am like one who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no retort.

But it is for you, O LORD, that I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.

For I pray, 'Only do not let them rejoice over me, those who boast against me when my foot slips.'

For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me.

I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.

Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good.

Do not forsake me, O LORD; O my God, do not be far from me; make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

People: 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

A READING FROM EPHESIANS (5:1-14)

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore, do not be associated with them. For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK (4:1-20)

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Again, he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, 'To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that "they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven."'

And he said to them, 'Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.'

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

Broadcasting the word of grace

We have a seeder on the farm that I borrowed from my father-in-law when we had to replant a field for pasture. It is a really simple devise. It fits onto the back of a tractor with a three-point hitch and then is driven through a power take-off shaft. You fill the hopper with seed and as you drive along with the tractor the seed is dispersed by being forced out of a narrowing tube that moves from side to side.

To be honest it is nowhere near as effective as a modern pneumatic seeder that literally fires individual seeds into the ground – which is why we get such amazingly straight and evenly spaced lines of crops. While it is not that much different to how folk in Jesus' day would have broadcast seed by hand as they scooped it out of a bag hung from their shoulder, it works and saves me hours of labour.

You see the joy with broadcasting seed is that you have very limited control of where it goes and as somebody walked up and down a field broadcasting wheat or barley seed in Jesus' day it would have landed wherever it was thrown – on stony ground, pathways, in a patch infested with weed seed or on good soil.

We are really fortunate. Our little farm is in a little valley that has tons of clay-loam that is great for crops. While we use it for pasture and hay, our neighbours use it for cash crops like wheat, corn and soya. If you go about a mile east of us or a few miles south of us the ground is full of stone from a giant moraine from the last ice age. And if you go west of us you eventually hit sand as you reach the shore-line of Georgian Bay. While the Palestine of Jesus' day had some good agrarian land in it, the vast majority of farms were on ground that was stony and dry.

People listening to Jesus tell this parable would have got the illustration straight off – the quality of the soil determines the outcome. Seed sown on a hard well trodden path is going to be taken by birds way before it gets a chance to really take; seed that roots through the stones for soil will not survive the heat; seed that takes in the midst of weeds is soon going to be choked and seed that foils on good rich soil is productive. But it is the application of that principle to faith life that the disciples struggle with so Jesus has to explain it to them.

Now parables are meant to be understood on multiple levels and in a range of ways – they are open to interpretation – but Jesus directs their thoughts to consider how sustainable and productive their faith is. They point being that faith is something that is meant to be sustainable and to sustain us. Faith is meant to be productive and to bear fruit – it has a measurable outcome. And the sustainability and productivity of faith is really dependent upon our receptiveness – which is the point of the “take away” or application element of Jesus' teaching. There is a real sense in which our own receptiveness to the Good News of the grace and compassion of God can fail to take root, be short lived due to life's circumstances or be choked - hence Paul's reference to being “awake” in his letter to the church in Ephesus.

So what is a good yield for barley or wheat? Well, each head of wheat has a certain number of kernels or seeds on it and each stem will have a number of heads on it. Modern wheat produces about 50 kernels per head of wheat or 30 to 35 kernels per head in Canada because of our shorter growing season and climate. And, on average, a stem will have about three heads per plant. In Jesus' day the average yield was far lower than that because of the varieties of wheat and barley they used. So, for Jesus to even suggest that you could get a yield of 30 or 60 or hundred kernels on a head of wheat was ridiculous – and that is the point. The point that Jesus is making is that this is a yield of abundance and that is way beyond our imagination or expected reality. That when we receive this God of generosity into our lives in a way that is sustainable that we ourselves become productive in sharing that generosity in a way that is beyond reasonable measure. Pray God that we may be so receptive to the work of God's grace in our lives that our faith may be both sustainable and generously productive beyond measure. **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: Almighty God, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world. May your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who lives 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

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

Michelle & Ian Sinclair; Sean; Brian W.; Jenn Reid; Kevin H.; Diane M.; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Sophia L; Marianne S.; Amanda Stewart; Kathryn; Kadeem Broomes; Anna Sellers; Marty; Brenda Jessem; 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:

Jen Galicinski; Cecilia Mowat; 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; 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 Litoral Ecuador, Saint Albans (England), and Gombe (Nigeria)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Christ Church, Deer Park