

# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

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# Wednesday Service

July 21, 2021

11:00 a.m.

## 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.**

*My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me. John 10.27*

## VENITE

### PSALM 95.1-7

Celebrant: Come, let us sing to the Lord;

**People: let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

Celebrant: Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

**People: and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

Celebrant: For the Lord is a great God,

**People: and a great king above all gods.**

Celebrant: In his hand are the caverns of the earth,

**People: and the heights of the hills are his also.**

Celebrant: The sea is his for he made it,

**People: and his hands have moulded the dry land.**

Celebrant: Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

**People: and kneel before the Lord our maker.**

Celebrant: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

**People: Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

## THE PSALMS

### Psalm 53

Celebrant: The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." \*

**People: All are corrupt and commit abominable acts; there is none who does any good.**

Celebrant: God looks down from heaven upon us all, \*

**People: to see if there is any who is wise, if there is one who seeks after God.**

Celebrant: Every one has proved faithless; all alike have turned bad; \*

**People: there is none who does good; no, not one.**

Celebrant: Have they no knowledge, those evildoers \*

**People: who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon God?**

Celebrant: See how greatly they tremble, such trembling as never was; \*

**People: for God has scattered the bones of the enemy; they are put to shame, because God has rejected them.**

Celebrant: Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! \*

**People: when God restores the fortunes of his people Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.**

**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

### THE READINGS

#### A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS 14:19-28

But Jews came there from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds. Then they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples surrounded him, he got up and went into the city. The next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. After they had proclaimed the good news to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, then on to Iconium and Antioch. There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, 'It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.'

And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had completed. When they arrived, they called the church together and related all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. And they stayed there with the disciples for some time.

The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

## THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

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

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.

But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

The Gospel of Christ.

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

## SERMON

### Encouragement and the emergence of the Gentile Church

Acts 13 marks a significant shift in the life of the early church. Acts 1-12 focus on the life of the church that revolved around Jerusalem and the Jewish followers of Jesus. In Acts 13 the focus shifts to the city of Antioch in Syria and the growth of the church amongst Gentiles. In Acts 13 Paul and Barnabas arrive in Antioch from Jerusalem and the church there, commissions them to take the Christian faith into the Gentile world starting in Asia Minor.

So the two chapters of Acts 13 and 14 cover Paul's first journey as he travels from Antioch in Syria, across to the island of Cyprus, to Perga in Pamphylia, to Pisidian Antioch in Lyconia (present day Turkey), down to Derbe via Iconium and Lystra - and then back to Antioch in Syria in reverse.

Now their pattern was very simple – in each city on the Sabbath they would, as Jews, join folk for worship at the local synagogue and share the story of their faith in Jesus. At this point, while there were a few Gentiles who had become followers of Jesus through the route of converting to Judaism, there were no explicitly Gentile churches. And, as was the custom in Jerusalem, they gathered for worship on the Jewish Sabbath either at the Temple in Jerusalem or in synagogues in the Diaspora communities. But on this trip from Antioch there starts to emerge a significant shift. For the first time they see a significant receptiveness in the Gentile community to their faith in Jesus.

While they are in Pisidian Antioch they teach in the synagogue to Jews and those Gentiles who had converted to Judaism. They are so taken by Paul and Barnabas that they invite them to come back on the next Sabbath. When they return not only are they met by the Jewish community and the Gentile converts to Judaism, but by a host of Gentile – "the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord" the writer of Acts tells us. Paul shares the idea with them that this faith is for all of humanity. "When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord; and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers (Acts 13:48). As they slowly moved their way south to Derbe via Iconium and Lystra their experience is the same. Both Jews and Gentiles who had converted to Judaism follow them as well as many Gentiles.

Simultaneously, there is a growing opposition to them amongst those Jews who do not become followers of Jesus. They follow them all the way to Derbe from Pisidian Antioch and, in each place, harass them and try to

turn folk against them. When they finally get to Lystra this faction of synagogue worshippers drags Paul out of the city and stones him and leaves him for dead. When the disciples or followers of Jesus find him, he gets up and walks back into the city of Lystra, keeps on preaching and makes “many disciples”.

Then him and Barnabas go on to Debre and then turn around and head back up to Pisidan Antioch and “strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith” by informing them, ‘It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.’ One must be honest, if you were a new follower of Jesus and heard that the person you trusted had just been stoned by the very folk who worship with you each Sabbath would you give up? You may be tempted. But what we see emerging as a result of these early persecutions is new communities of Jewish and Gentile followers of Jesus emerging and gathering by themselves. And what do Paul and Barnabas do to facilitate that? They “appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.” Pure and simple – they had the faith that with the right leadership and the faithfulness of God they would be just fine.

They, like the disciples in the boat on the Sea of Galilee, might have asked, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” And they might have heard Jesus’ response to the calamity about them “Peace! Be still!” and to themselves “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” In contrast, they build faith and courage into these new followers of Jesus and entrusted them to God’s faithfulness.

Pray God, that we would not shrink back from our faithfulness as followers of Jesus when we face opposition, but may we continue faithfully to bear witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. And, like Paul and Barnabas, may we build faith and courage into others as we entrust them to the never-ending faithfulness of God.

**All:            Amen**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Hear, O Israel**

**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**

**#9 Morning**

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

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

**People:**       **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**People:**       **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**People:**       **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**People:**       **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant, Brian. Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

**People: Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

**All: Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**People: 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.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## NOTICES:

## 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.

**People: Amen.**

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**Assisting Rev. Simon today:**

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Simon Bell  
Video: 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:**

Ray Wilson; Judy Virtanen; Lawrence Bornais; Roxanne Reid & Family & The Goodyer Family; Garn Mennell; Jane & Ron Lewis; 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; Sherrie O.; 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:**

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; Marg Abbott; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; 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:**

Diocese of Duk (South Sudan)

**In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:**

St. George, Haliburton