

# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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*Wednesday, June 2, 2021*

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# Wednesday Service

June 2, 2021

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of Haudenosaunee, Anishnaabeg Peoples. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

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.**

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory. Isaiah 6.3*

## RESPONSORY

Celebrant: God's love has been poured into our hearts.

**People: We dwell in him and he in us.**

Celebrant: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;

**People: Make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Celebrant: Sing to him, sing praises to him,

**People: And speak of all his marvellous works.**

Celebrant: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty,

**People: Who was and is and is to come!**

## THE PSALMS

### 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

Fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they commit abominable acts; there is no one who does good.

God looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

They have all fallen away, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one.

Have they no knowledge, those evildoers, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon God?

There they shall be in great terror, in terror such as has not been. For God will scatter the bones of the ungodly; they will be put to shame, for God has rejected them.

O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When God restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will 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 SECOND BOOK OF CORINTHIANS 7:2-16

Make room in your hearts for us; we have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to

live together. I often boast about you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with consolation; I am overjoyed in all our affliction.

For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way—disputes without and fears within. But God, who consoles the downcast, consoled us by the arrival of Titus, and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was consoled about you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.

For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it, for I see that I grieved you with that letter, though only briefly). Now I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because your grief led to repentance; for you felt a godly grief, so that you were not harmed in any way by us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death.

For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves guiltless in the matter. So although I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong, nor on account of the one who was wronged, but in order that your zeal for us might be made known to you before God. In this we find comfort.

In addition to our own consolation, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his mind has been set at rest by all of you. For if I have been somewhat boastful about you to him, I was not disgraced; but just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting to Titus has proved true as well. And his heart goes out all the more to you, as he remembers the obedience of all of you, and how you welcomed him with fear and trembling. I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.

The word of the Lord.

**People:            Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE 17:20-37

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

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, ‘The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, “Look, here it is!” or “There it is!” For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.’

Then he said to the disciples, ‘The days are coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. They will say to you, “Look there!” or “Look here!” Do not go, do not set off in pursuit. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must endure much suffering and be rejected by this generation. Just as it was in the days of Noah, so too it will be in the days of the Son of Man.

They were eating and drinking, and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed all of them. Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot: they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day that Lot left Sodom, it rained fire and sulphur from heaven and destroyed all of them—it will be like that on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, anyone on the housetop who has belongings in the house must not come down to take them away; and likewise anyone in the field must not turn back.

Remember Lot's wife. Those who try to make their life secure will lose it, but those who lose their life will keep it. I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken and the other left.' Then they asked him, 'Where, Lord?' He said to them, 'Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.'

The Gospel of Christ.

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

## SERMON

### **Grief that turns to joy**

This is Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth and it follows on from what was clearly a harsh rebuke from him. The central theme of Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth is unity. It has at its heart those two wonderful chapters of the gifts of the Spirit (12 & 14) and the chapter of love (13) that gets repeatedly used at weddings, but it really about the nature of the church.

So, what was going on in Corinth that Paul had to write them such a harsh letter? Well, the church had originally planted there had become fractured into a series of home cells in competition with each other. Each of them had their own leader or champion and each of them assumed that they represented the authentic Christian faith. But the reality was not that all. They become a discredit to the Gospel because they took their infighting into the public domain, and they were constantly at odds with each other rather working together for the common good and for the wellbeing of their neighbours.

Paul clearly offended and grieved them in his first letter, "he (Titus) told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it, for I see that I grieved you with that letter, though only briefly)." This clearly was not a comfortable choice for Paul to make and it was obviously not easy for him to do. So, while he greets the grief it created in them, he does not grieve the outcome.

Paul's letter had the desired effect – it made them realise how much they were not functioning as the church should and were clearly missing the mark. They realised that they needed to learn to work together out of a mutual sense of love in contrast to them competing with each other. That they had to heal the fractures and deal with the discontent that had driven them to the point of litigating against each other. That they needed to learn to work together by accommodating their differences and celebrating their diversity. That they needed to learn from Paul and the group of pastors who formed around him by making room in their hearts for each other; by ensuring that they wronged no one, corrupted no one, and took advantage of no one. Pure and simple.

This second letter is a follow up from a pastoral visit by Titus, Paul's companion, and a report back to him in prison in Rome. Titus had indicated to Paul that things had substantially changed following his first letter and Paul, in his enthusiasm, writes to them, "I often boast about you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with consolation; I am overjoyed in all our affliction." He then writes, "Now I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because your grief led to repentance; for you felt a godly grief, so that you were not harmed in any way by us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death. "

Paul recognises that where relationships become fractured we go through grief and that sometimes those honest conversations we have to have with others produces a shared grief – an "our affliction" moment when the pain

is so hard to bear. Grief is a journey of loss that produces anger, sadness, longing in us for a happier time and a more affirming moment. But, where it stems from an honest and gracious space that seeks the best out of us, it can lead us to a place that is so much healthier and holistic. And, in this case, moment of grief produced a reorientation (a repentance), a transformation (salvation) and the sort of closure that is without regret. “As tough as it was it was good for me” sort of moment.

In essence this grief has resulted in joy. Paul rejoices, not because he has hurt them, but because they have re-orientated their life to living out true compassion and grace and unity as the local church. Paul and his colleagues rejoice because Titus knows the joy of serving in a local community that is healthy and growing in their service and ministry. Paul rejoices because he has “complete confidence” in them and can trust them with the ministry he started there.

Pray God that we might have the courage to have honest and faithful conversations within the life of the church that foster compassion, grace and unity. And that even where there is grief and hurt, it may be turned into consolation and true joy as we work towards being faithful ministers of the Gospel in the places where we are called.

**People: 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**

**Celebrant:** We come boldly to the throne of grace, praying to the almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for mercy and grace.

**People:** **We plead before your throne in heaven.**

**Celebrant:** Father of heaven, whose love profound a ransom for our souls has found: We pray for the world, created by your love, for its nations and governments. Extend to them your peace, pardoning love, mercy and grace.

**People:** **We plead before your throne in heaven.**

**Celebrant:** Almighty Son, incarnate Word, our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord: We pray for the Church, created for your glory, for its ministry to reflect those works of yours. Extend to us your salvation, growth, mercy and grace.

**People:** **We plead before your throne in heaven.**

**Celebrant:** Eternal Spirit, by whose breath the soul is raised from sin and death: We pray for families and individuals, created in your image, for the lonely, the bereaved, the sick and the dying. Breathe on them the breath of life and bring them to your mercy and grace.

**People:** **We plead before your throne in heaven.**

**Celebrant:** Thrice holy! Father, Spirit, Son, Mysterious Godhead, Three in One: We pray for ourselves, for your Church, for all whom we remember before you. Bring us all to bow before your throne in heaven, to receive life and pardon, mercy and grace for all eternity, as we worship you, saying,

**People:** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Amen.**

**Remembrance:**

We remember the 215 children who died at the residential school in Kamloops who were discovered last week. We mourn their loss, and we pray for the families and communities who continued to suffer the consequences of such injustice and genocide.

**People:** **Amen.**

**THE COLLECT**

Father, we praise you: through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things. You reveal your salvation in all the world by sending to us Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Through your Holy Spirit you give us a share in your life and love. Fill us with the vision of your glory, that we may always serve and praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**People:** **Amen**

**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:** Through June we will be studying the Book of Joel starting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June from 7:30 to 9:00 each Thursday evening via Zoom.

**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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Morning and Evening Prayer for the Seasons of the Church Year Prepared by the Ven. Dr. Richard Leggett for the Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee of the Anglican Church of Canada Authorized by The General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada, 2019

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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:**

Jane & Ron Lewis; Adesh; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Cecilia Mowat; Tanya Bowskill; Sheri Scott; Audrey Moody; Wally Raymond; Christine; Kim; AJ; Dorothy & Chuck; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wendy; Adara; Jean Glionna; Brenda Jessem; Shirley; Lynda Raye; Kilravey; Rhonda; Sherrie O.; Jane Tutty; Bill and Ann Canning; Tanya North; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Theresa & Pete; Jaxon Croft; Sean; Sophia L; 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:**

Kevin Hamann; Michelle Sinclair's Mom & Dad; Michelle & Ian Sinclair; 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; Livia & Neil Purcell; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; Garn Mennell; 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 Diocese of Central Philippines

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

St. Dunstan at Canterbury