

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Service

September 15, 2021

11:00 a.m. Service

Wednesday Service

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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: I do not glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. *Galatians 6.14*

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. **Amen.**

The Psalms

Psalm 72

Celebrant: Give the king your justice, O God,

People: and your righteousness to the king's son;

Celebrant: That he may rule your people righteously

People: and the poor with justice;

Celebrant: That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,

People: and the little hills bring righteousness.

Celebrant: He shall defend the needy among the people;

People: he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

Celebrant: He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,

People: from one generation to another.

Celebrant: He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,

People: like showers that water the earth.

Celebrant: In his time shall the righteous flourish;

People: there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

Celebrant: He shall rule from sea to sea,
People: and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Celebrant: His foes shall bow down before him,
People: and his enemies lick the dust.

Celebrant: The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
People: and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

Celebrant: All kings shall bow down before him,
People: and all the nations do him service.

Celebrant: For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
People: and the oppressed who has no helper.

Celebrant: He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;
People: he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

Celebrant: He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
People: and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

Celebrant: Long may he live! and may there be given to him gold from Arabia;
People: may prayer be made for him always, and may they bless him all the day long.

Celebrant: May there be abundance of grain on the earth, growing thick even on the hilltops;
People: may its fruit flourish like Lebanon, and its grain like grass upon the earth.

Celebrant: May his name remain for ever and be established as long as the sun endures;
People: may all the nations bless themselves in him and call him blessed.

Celebrant: Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
People: who alone does wondrous deeds!

Celebrant: And blessed be his glorious name for ever!
People: and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen.

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: 1 Corinthians 2:1-13

A READING FROM FIRST BOOK OF CORINTHIANS

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my

proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him'—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

THE HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:18-25

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON: Fr. Simon

The proclamation of our faith

Sometimes we think that it is essential that we have the skill to intellectually convince people into faith. While we rightly put a great emphasis upon have a "reasonable faith" within the Anglican tradition, faith is not about us intellectually convincing people of anything. For the world of me, I could never imagine

Jesus intellectually convincing Simon, Andrew, James and John to give their life as fishermen to follow him as his disciples. Or the crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and beyond the Jordan and in Syria following in their throngs after Jesus because he intellectually persuaded them that it was a great idea.

Paul, in writing to the church in Corinth, reminds them that he “did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom.” But rather that he came to them “in weakness and in fear and in much trembling” and “not with plausible words of wisdom”. Rather he came to them deciding “to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified” and “with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power”. Why? So that their “faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God”.

People respond to the Gospel story – the God News of Christ at work in the world – because we live it by faith, and they see God at work in themselves. Somehow, we believe that God is absent from the world around us until we pitch up to convince people that God exists and then, when they respond positively to our arguments, God pitches up in their life. This view could not be more contradictory to a Biblical understanding of faith even if we tried.

God is at work in the world – that is the whole point – and the Kingdom of God is present in all those contexts where we see love, grace, kindness, beauty, light, creativity, dignity, humanity, healing, wholeness, reconciliation, peace and life demonstrated to us. All we are doing is pointing that out and demonstrating it in our own lives. It is that to which people respond and that draws them out of hatred, revenge, brutality, ugliness, darkness, destructiveness, inhumanity, injury, brokenness, fracturing, fear and death.

People do not come to faith because anybody can convince them that God created the world in seven literal days. They come to faith because we treat them with the dignity and respect they deserve as creatures made in the image of God and demonstrate their true worth. People do not come to faith because we can intellectually convince them that Jesus was a historical character. They come to faith because we treat them with the embodied grace and compassion of Christ in our own time. People do not come to faith because we intellectually convince them to follow some moral code. They come to faith because they are invited into the adventure of following Jesus on a transformative journey that is life giving and leads to healing and wholeness.

And Paul reminds us that even when “we do speak wisdom” it is not of the sort that the world knows because it is not about intellectual superiority but is relational and imbedded in the very character. This form of wisdom is known because we are known by God and know God. Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures Wisdom is God in a female voice who invites us into living differently because we know God and are known by God relationally. In this sense our faith – to use the words of Paul – has matured through love. That is the whole point of the Creed – to believe or hold as beloved to ourselves this God revealed to us in sacred text and shown to be real in the life of our communion together through the church.

As we journey through this week may we proclaim the mystery of God in ways that are so tangible and real because God is at work in us, and we constantly recognise God at work in our world. 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

Litany 8

Celebrant: By your incarnation and your birth in poverty, by your baptism, your fasting, and your trials in the desert, O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison or Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: By your agony in the garden, by your cross and passion, by your death and burial, by your resurrection and ascension, and by the gift of your Holy Spirit, O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Celebrant: In times of trouble and in times of well-being, at the hour we die and on the day of your glory, O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Celebrant: Deliver us from war and violence, from hardness of heart and from contempt of your love and your promises; O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Celebrant: Enlighten our lives with your word, that in it we may find our way and our hope; O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Celebrant: Assist your people in every land, govern them in peace and justice, defend them from the enemies of life; O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: Almighty God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger, order us in all our doings and guide us to do always what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Reading the Bible

Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat – a Canadian Biblical scholar – is offering a course called “A Life-giving Story: How to Read the Bible”. The course descriptions reads, “The Bible is first and foremost a story — of hope and heartbreak, surprising betrayals and audacious faithfulness. Come and rediscover why this story of God and the world has fired the imagination and given hope for faith-filled resistance throughout history.” The cost of the course is Full fee: \$150 or Concession: \$100 or Unwaged: \$50 and cost assistance is available. It will be run on Sundays between 7pm-9pm EST for the Sept 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 via Zoom. Details can be found at <https://www.bibleremixed.ca/a-life-giving-story>

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.**

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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:

Christina; 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; Judy Virtanen; 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:

Jane & Ron Lewis; Cecilia Mowat; Tanya Bowskill; Sophia L; Jane Tutty; Jean Glionna; Dorothy & Chuck; Kevin Hamann; Laura Johnston; Marilyn Foley; Kadeem Broomes; 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 Evo (Nigeria)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Havergal College