

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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The Feast of St. Margaret of Scotland
The Reign of Christ

November 21, 2021

10:00 a.m. Service

The Feast of St. Margaret of Scotland The Reign of Christ

November 21, 2021

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

PROCESSIONAL: *Lo God is here! Let Us Adore*

#328 HB

THE GREETING:

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GLORY TO GOD

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest,

All: **and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Kyrie: Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: **Almighty and everlasting God, who in the heart of your servant St. Margaret of Scotland kindled the flame of your love, give us, your humble servants, such faith and power of love, that as we rejoice in her triumph, we may profit by her example; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

A READING FROM BOOK OF DANIEL

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire.

A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 93

The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved; your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring.

More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the LORD!

Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8

A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So, it is to be. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 18:33-37

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

People: Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

All: Almighty God, we have heard your words to us in holy scripture and know your call to each of us. In every age you have spoken through the voices of prophets, pastors, and teachers. We give you thanks that over the years we have heard you speak to us through the preaching of your word in this place. Grant that those who preach in this place may proclaim the crucified and risen Christ and interpret your word with sensitivity and insight, that we may hear that word inwardly and respond to it in all our life. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, your living Word. Amen.

Sermon: Doug Court

Today, the feast day of St. Margaret, we look at her life serving Christ. St. Margaret proclaimed Christ by her words and actions during her lifetime by serving the poor and suffering. Both Giles and Margaret imaged Christ in their lives and set an example for us who will be, like them, judged by our actions.

This Sunday also marks the last Sunday in the Church's year. It is a day of celebration of the Reign of Christ, and the example he set for us, and all his saints. In the next few minutes, I will share some of the information I learned about how St. Margaret's life shadowed that of Jesus by following his example and commands.

To do that, I refer to last year's reading for the Reign of Christ, Matthew 25:31-46. Jesus foretells of the day of judgement when He will separate the people into two groups, the "sheep" and the "goats". To the ones on his right, (the sheep), he will say to them,

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, or naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

When they asked, "when did we do this?" Jesus responded, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

The "least" that Jesus referred to in the Gospels were the poor, the children, and the suffering of our world.

In a few minutes we will look at how Margaret truly fulfilled Jesus' calling and caring for the "least" in society, and how we, can also fulfill Jesus' will as we enter into the season of Advent. But first let us learn about St. Margaret of Scotland.

My knowledge of Margaret, up until a few weeks ago, was limited to the window above me. From the window we can see that she has a crown, and she could read, (literacy rates during her times was less than 1%, and very few of those 1% were women). Evident from the children gathered around her it appears she was a teacher and that children were a focus for her.

But there was a lot more about Margaret than the picture indicates.

Margaret was born in Hungary in 1045. Her father was Prince Edward the Exile. Around 1055 – 1057 Edward was sent for by the King of England, Edward the Confessor to return to England as a potential successor to the English throne. When the family arrived in England, Margaret's father died suddenly, cause of death unknown – but there was competition for the throne. The rest of the family stayed in the English Court for about 10 years. Margaret was known in English history as Margaret of Wessex.

When King Edward (the Confessor) died in January 1066, Harold, his brother-in-law, was crowned king – but not for long!

In the space of about 4 weeks, English history changed dramatically.

Mid - Sept. 1066 – King of Norway claims the English Throne and invaded with his army from the North of England.

September 25, 1066 - Big Battle, Harold defeats King of Norway

September 28, while returning to London with a weakened army, Harold receives news that William, Duke of Normandy had also claimed the throne and had landed with an army in the South of England.

October 14, Harold was killed in Battle at Hastings. Margaret's brother, Edgar, was

proclaimed king, but never crowned. The Norman invasion was successful, and William the Conqueror took the Throne. Anglo Saxon rule of England ended.

Margaret and her mother fled to Northern England and were offered protection by the powerful Duke of Northumberland. Two years later, The Duke takes on William, and loses. Margaret and her mother, decided to return to the safety of the continent, BUT their ship is blown off course and they became shipwrecked in Scotland.

King Malcolm III offers them refuge in 1068 and marries Margaret in 1070.

So! How did she become a saint?

From her teen years, Margaret become a very devout Christian. Some historians mention that her choice would have been to enter a convent and become a nun, but circumstances lead her to marry Malcolm. Malcolm was a strong ruler, often seeking opportunities to extend his “influence” by use of force. Margaret is credited with mellowing Malcolm to follow Christian guidelines of charity and justice. Malcolm allowed Margaret to carry out her religious devotion and works, and even supported them financially.

Aware of the hardship suffered by pilgrims travelling overland to a holy site near Fife, Margaret, using her influence and resources established a ferryboat service crossing the Firth of Forth. The ferry terminals were named Queensferry South and Queensferry North, and the towns still exist today. The ferry service begun in the 1070’s was replaced by a new bridge in 1964.

Margaret would go among the poor families, widows, and orphans, in Edinburgh with food, and clothing and care for the sick. She did this, every day, before she, herself, would eat or take care of her own needs. Imagining Christ she would wash the feet of the poor and bathe the sick. She used castle resources to serve the “*least*” in society. In a sense, an 11th century Mother Theresa. With her assistance, the huge abbey at Dunfermine was started when she invited Benedictine monks from Canterbury to form a Christian Community for instruction. The Church in Scotland was not in line with the church on the continent in many ways and needed major reforms. Margaret sought to use her position and influence to reform the church by standardizing some of its practices, stopping the abuses of power of clergy and church hierarchy, forcing them to follow more “Christian” lines. Although debated by historians there is evidence that she moved the “sabbath”, day of rest, from Saturday to Sunday, and removed remaining carryover pagan practices from liturgies.

Again, using her influence with the Archbishop of Canterbury, she negotiated the release of English nobles, political prisoners, from prisons under Norman control.

Margaret’s personal life centered around private worship. She studied scripture and sacred writings and shared her knowledge with Malcolm, who was illiterate, her children and the Scottish Court. Daily, she worshiped in a private cave, (in 1960’s paved over to form a parking lot). She wrote of Christian charity and service. She prized her “holy” books and Malcolm, even had some decorated with gold and silver. One such book was a pocket Gospel, with pictures of the Evangelists, now in the Bodleian Library in Oxford University.

Margaret had eight children. 6 boys, 2 girls. Four of the boys became Kings of Scotland, (one shared the throne with his uncle David), one became a Bishop, and one was killed along with his father, Malcolm at a battle while invading England, in 1093. Through marriages, Margaret's younger daughter became the Countess of Boulogne, and the elder, Queen of England.

Margaret, Queen of Scotland, Pearl of Scotland, Patron of Scotland, Saint, patroness of mothers, large families, and learning, died in 1093, within a week after the announcement of her husband's, and her eldest son's death at Altwick. She was about 48 years old, frail and tired from her never ending care and sacrifice for others.

Referring to the Gospel earlier, it is evident that Margaret fulfilled Jesus' will and, was placed among "*the sheep*", His chosen, to enter the Kingdom. She acted out of love for the dignity of "*the least of these*". She was canonized for her piety, service to the Church, and service to the poor and suffering. But what about us? How can we, following the example of Margaret and Giles, be among "*the sheep*" who serve the Lord by serving others?

This Advent we have so many opportunities to bring joy and dignity to those in need. One example would be the Salvation Army kettles. What does a couple coins do for the "...*the least of these*", in our community?

While we are all enjoying our Christmas with family, what was your donation in the 'kettle' doing for a street person or someone living in a shelter. To make it a little more personal, let's look at "*one of the least of these*" on our streets and call her, "Agatha", just so she has a name. A donation to a kettle provides her with more than just a meal.

Agatha enters the food hall for her Christmas dinner. She is welcomed out of the cold into the warm setting, asked her name. She is given a meal, a warm drink, asked if she would like a second helping. Someone notices she needs gloves or socks and goes and gets them for her. People show concern. For just an hour or less, she has been warm, fed, had conversation, and been treated with the dignity we all deserve. Is this not what the Lord is talking about when he speaks that what we do to "*the least of these*", we do to Him?

Following the example of Giles' and Margaret in caring for those in need, throughout the year there are so many ways we can help those in need using our time, energy, skills, money and prayer. In doing so, we too may someday hear the words, "*Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world for when I was hungry...*" -

You know the rest. *Amen*

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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Reader: For the Church universal, of which these buildings are a visible symbol,

People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For your presence whenever two or three have gathered in your name,

People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For this place where we may be still and know that you are God,

People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us,

People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For our past and a vision of the future that lies ahead,

People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the gift of the Holy Spirit and new life in baptism,

People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the pardon of our sins when we have fallen short of your glory,

People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the holy Eucharist in which we have a foretaste of your eternal kingdom,

People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness,

People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the faith of those who have gone before us and for our encouragement by their perseverance,

People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For all the benefactors of this place who have died in the peace of Christ and are at rest,

People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the fellowship of all your saints, and especially for St. Margaret of Scotland, our patron,

People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Officiant: For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

(Silence is kept.)

Celebrant: O God, from living and chosen stones you prepare an everlasting dwelling place for your majesty. Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit those who serve you here may always be kept within your presence. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

(Silence is kept.)

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

People: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN: *Hymn for St. Margaret's*

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PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All: God of love and justice, you make known your ways in the lives of your saints. Receive all we offer you this day, and help us to know your holy will and do it; through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; heaven itself cannot contain you and your glory fills all the world. You accept our setting apart of places for your worship and in them pour out your gifts or grace upon your faithful people. This table is a sign to us of the heavenly altar, where your saints and angels praise you. Here we have recalled the sacrifice of your Son; here we have been fed with the body and blood of your Son; here our sins have been forgiven; here we have tasted the joys of your eternal kingdom. Grant that in these mysteries we may be united with one another and

strengthened for service in your world. Therefore, with angels and archangels and those who worship you in every age, we raise our voices in joyful praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER 1

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things. You formed us in your own image: male and female you created us. When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us, but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation. Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give thanks and raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore. Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith,

All: **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy People, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF BREAD #3

Celebrant: Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat, whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

All: So, may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

LAMB OF GOD:

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS:

*I Am the Bread
Just as the Deer*

**#56 HB
#540 HB**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: God of glory, this table is a foretaste of the kingdom of your Son. May we be faithful to him in this life and rejoice with your servant St. Margaret of Scotland for ever; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY

All: **Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

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.

People: **Amen.**

REMINDERS: *Birthdays/Anniversaries/Announcements*

RECESSIONAL: *Come & Journey with the Saviour*

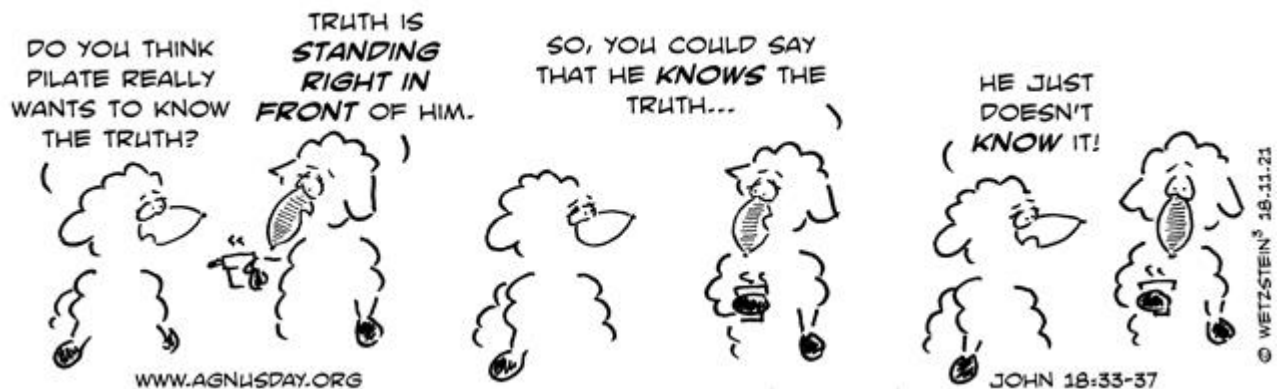
#482 HB

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Assisting Rev. Simon today:

Celebrant:	The Rev. Simon Bell
Preacher:	Doug Court
Bread:	Fr. Simon
First Reading:	Lorraine Chew
Second Reading:	Peter Beckett
Prayers:	Margaret Paradis
Gospel:	Beth Steffler
Server:	Beth Steffler
Audio/Visual:	David Paradis
Music:	Craig Snider
Chancel Ministry:	Diane MacCormack
Sidespersons:	John Snow, Kevin Lemoine

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

Darlene Rose & Family; Daphne; The Fluke Family for the loss of Jeremiah; Lisa Marie; Cheryl C.; Peter Hubbard; Mark Ralston; Kim Middaugh; Pam Rees; Livia & Neil Purcell; Farrell & Frances McGinnis; Sophia L.; Jackson; Sally Smith; John & Terry; Marilyn Lloyd; Theresa & Pete; Dave Lawrence; Valerie; Stephen and Martin Bertelsen; Alvin Maynard; Darlene Jessem; Jim Tomkins; Doreen; Adesh; Brenda Jessem; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean.

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:

Sheila Green; Carrie Snow; Sheri Scott; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wally Raymond; Christine; Audrey Moody; Lynda Raye; Garn Mennell; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Michelle Sinclair and mom; Jane & Ron Lewis; Cecilia Mowat; Laura Johnston; Marilyn Foley; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Fr. Murray; 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:

The Church of Bangladesh

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

FaithWorks

