

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Transfiguration Sunday

February 27, 2022

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8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Services with Communion

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Processional: *Jesus Shall Reign, Wher'er the Sun*

#383 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 God, on the holy mount you revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured: mercifully deliver us from the darkness of this world, and change us into his likeness from glory to glory; 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: Exodus 34:29-35

A READING FROM THE BOOK EXODUS

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him.

But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

PSALM: 99

REFRAIN: The Lord our God is the Holy One.

The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! **R**

Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he! **R**

Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. **R**

O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy. **R**

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.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside.

But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel: Luke 9:28-43a

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

People: Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" -- not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent, and in those days, told no one any of the things they had seen. On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him.

Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not."

Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON: The Rev. Susan Snelling

God of compassion and mercy grant us grace to recognize you.

Jesus, word of God, grant us peace to listen and reflect.

Spirit of God, enliven and embolden us to act courageously in fulfilling our calling. **Amen.**

What are we to make of this series of stories about radiance? Moses' face radiant after he has spoken to God on the mountain. Jesus a picture of radiance from head to toe after praying to God on a mountain and Paul's image of our faces being radiant as we are transformed into Christ's likeness. What transfiguration are we observing today?

Jesus usually gets top billing. And indeed, his transfiguration is at first glance the most astonishing. Because appearances, visions, transformations such as this are so out of the ordinary. They are unexpected and therefore catch us off guard. We are left to wonder if what we think we just saw or heard actually happened. We wonder: How can this be? Did anyone else see and/or hear it too?

In the case of Jesus, Peter, James, and John are all there. Whether they were sleeping as Jesus prayed or were awake the whole time - they all witness Jesus' dazzling appearance and see that two men who they identify as Moses and Elijah are standing with him. They are transfixed and thinking this is not a fleeting moment, they want to stay on the experience. But anyone who has had such an experience will tell you - they do not last. Just long enough for the intended message to be conveyed. There is no time for making dwellings or tabernacles.

Just enough time for Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets in the history of the people of Israel, to be seen talking to Jesus whom Peter had identified as the Messiah eight days

before. Linking Jesus to these men lent credibility to that statement. It planted Jesus squarely in the tradition as the next great Prophet - The Anointed One. The One who the people have been waiting for, who will restore peace and justice in the world, returning to the realm of God as intended through creation and the covenants made. Life in the promised land, not under Roman occupation. Freedom.

Our reading from Exodus reminds us of how the face of Moses shone after he had been in the presence of God. This indicates that his experience with God was more than just an ordinary conversation. It was a transforming experience that changed how Moses thought of himself and how the people understood and saw him - literally. He was different after his time with God. He became a better leader, a new person capable of so much more than he ever could have imagined.

Likewise, Jesus becomes something other than what he appears to be when he went up to the mountain. He is transfigured into what appears to be the Messiah. Any doubt is cast away when a voice confirms it: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him." You may recall a similar voice speaking at Jesus' baptism: "You are my Son whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Whereas the message at the baptism was directed at Jesus, confirming God's love and pride, the message at the transfiguration is directed to the others present. Jesus knows who he is and what he is to do, however, his followers are being prepared for what will happen in the next little while. God wants them to pay attention to what Jesus says to them because he is the Chosen One and that will bring consequences, positive and negative. Jesus is preparing his friends for what will happen to him and trying to prepare them so that they will know what to do after he is gone.

Jesus followers are working from the assumption that Jesus will free the people in the present and that he will prosper with them after freedom is achieved. They do not foresee the opposition to Jesus and his message gaining strength or the religious authorities exercising political force. They do not like it when Jesus begins to speak about his death. That is a real downer. They are filled with hope and optimism about the future. After all that is what led to their involvement in this movement. But it is realistic. It offers perspective.

Jesus will be transfigured by his death and resurrection. The Greek word translated as "departure" in Luke is actually the word "exodus." Moses, Elijah, and Jesus are talking about Jesus' exodus. Jesus' exodus is his death. His death will lead to his resurrection - overcoming the power of death for himself and for all believers - liberation, freedom. Not as the disciples understood it. But the way that God intended.

Which brings us to you and me. Those who believe in Christ and his transformative power in our lives. We proclaim this for example in our closing prayer at the eucharist.

Glory to God
whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can
ask or imagine.

Or in the hymn; Shine, Jesus, Shine when we sing:

Shine, Jesus, Shine; fill the land with the
father's glory;
blaze, spirit, blaze: set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow: flood the nations with
grace and mercy;

send forth your word, lord, and let there
be light.

But do we claim it? If we pay attention to the words we are saying or singing these are powerful statements. What is infinitely more than we can ask or imagine? Scary prospect! We certainly will not be planning that out at advisory board or Diocesan Council. We will be letting go of our expectations, our ways of doing things and allowing God's Spirit to blow through our spaces and inspire us to acts of courage and ridiculous dreams.

For Paul this is the logical conclusion to Christ's story. That in our lives we embody the risen Christ. We carry within us the Spirit of God and that Spirit is like a light that shines, that makes us radiant. We are people of the Resurrection. Now granted the past two years have taken a toll on us. It has been hard to know how we are to be God's people in the world we find ourselves in. Nevertheless, that is our call. To be the Church in the world. The Body of Christ. To proclaim through our words and actions God's saving love. So, although today is about Jesus' transfiguration, foreshadowing his death and resurrection, it is also about the potential for our transfiguration.

This is the last Sunday before the season of Lent begins when we are asked to: consider our mortality; reflect on our spiritual lives in terms of our relationship to God, our prayer life, and reading of scripture; take a look at our habits, thoughts, words and try to align them more with God's ways; be generous with our resources; and consider Jesus' actions and teachings as we follow the story of his ministry – what does it mean for me, this community, the world around me? It is good for us to reminded of our ongoing transformation into the image of Christ.

What will you take a look at this Lent that will encourage that transformation so that when we finally come to Holy Week, Jesus' last days, his death and his glorious resurrection, the call to new life can be meaningfully answered?

People: Amen

(Time allowed for Silent Reflection.)

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

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

All: 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.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

#13 INCARNATION

(In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, “Lord, grant us peace.”)

Celebrant: By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

People: Lord, grant us peace.

Celebrant: By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

People: Lord, grant us peace.

Celebrant: By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.

People: Lord, grant us peace.

Celebrant: By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.

People: Lord, grant us peace.

Celebrant: By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

People: Lord, grant us peace.

Celebrant: By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.

People: Lord, grant us peace.

Celebrant: Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

People: Lord, grant us peace.

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: *There is a Redeemer*

#136 SB

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

All: **Holy God, receive all we offer you this day, and bring us to that radiant glory which we see in the transfigured face of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: #3

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: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through who you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will, he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so, he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we 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 and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take and eat": this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, 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 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

BREAKING OF BREAD #6:

Celebrant: We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All: God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

AGNES DEI – 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:

As the Deer

Open Our Eyes Lord

#40 SB

#2 SB

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

All: Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. May we who are partakers of his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. We ask this in his name. 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: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

NOTICES: DAILY DEVOTIONS – team of writers at Good Shepherd, St Margaret’s and Trinity – contact Norm Savill nsavill@bell.net to be included or check the parish websites.

VESTRY – St Margaret’s Vestry is on the 28 Feb at 12:00 both in-person and via Zoom.

SHROVE TUESDAY – 1st of March – Pancakes to Go – call the parish office for details

ASH WEDNESDAY – 2nd of March – Signing with Ashes at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in person and on-line services

LENTEN STUDIES GROUPS;

The “I am” in John’s Gospel – for six Thursday of Lent between 12:00 and 1:00 at St Margaret’s starting on the 3rd of March. In-person in the church and on-line.

Faith in the City: Conversations in Urban Theology – for the six Friday’s of Lent between 12:00 and 1:00 at Trinity starting on the 4th of March. In-person in the church and on-line. Lunch to go.

MINI MEALS SALE – Trinity ACW

Trinity ACW do a fundraiser for local Barrie charities by selling prepared meals. They include: **Shepherd's Pies** -Lg. \$7.00/ Sm. \$5.00; **Meat Pies** – Lg. (6") pie - \$7.00/ Sm. (4") pie - \$5.00; **Soups** - Squash, asparagus, beef barley, or bean and bacon -- \$6.00; **Potato Pancakes**, 2 per pkg. - \$1.00. Please **call Mae at 705 734 1888** to place your order and arrange for pickup. Pickup is also available after Church on Sundays but must be ordered ahead.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - Mondays during Lent 1:30-3:00 pm March 7th- April 11th

This study will be offered on Zoom. Rev. Susan Snelling will be leading it.

Witness at the Cross

Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.

In *Witness at the Cross*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play in the Gospels. For each, Jesus has a particular meaning and message, and from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

Contact Rev. Susan at smsatgoodshepherd@gmail.com or

revsusan@rogers.com

Recessional: *Lord, the Light of Your Love*

#460 HB

THE DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Assisting Rev. Susan today:

Celebrants/Preacher: Rev. Susan Snelling
1st Reading: Maggie Prentice
2nd Reading: Jim Blogg
Gospel: Margaret Paradis
Prayers: Doug Court
Server: Beth Steffler
Music: Craig Snider
Chancel: Beth Steffler
Sidespersons: Bob Cheesman, Al Lavender

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

Ruby & Kirk; Cecilia Mowat & Tanya Bowskill; Rose Court; Kim Middaugh; Lorraine W; Cathy Cole; Vayda; Colleen; Wilma; Barb Semsch; Sally; Daniel Leibovich; Steve & Jade; Donna & Ray Wilson; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Stephen Bertelsen; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Gabrielle & Dom & family; Karyn; Shane & Shelly Finnigan & Families; Rose McIntyre; Rev. Janet Mitchell; Dave & Winnie Fulcher; Cole; Martin Bertelsen; Lorraine W.; Sharron Snider; Peter Hubbard; Sally Smith; Marilyn Lloyd; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; 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:

Donna & Ray Wilson; Mark Ralston; Jackson; Phil & Kathy C.; Bob Anderson; Nancy Perault; Marco Romita & Rose; Sharon Z; Adesh; Lisa Marie; Sophia L.; Joyce Antony; Bill & Cathy Gray; Alvin Maynard; Dave Lawrence; Livia & Neil Purcell; 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; Marilyn Foley; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Wendy Goodyer; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Anglican Church of Kenya

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

BLACC Anglicans