

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday, February 24, 2021

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Music Directors	Gayle Haley	(705) 728-3859
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	Dave Flavelle	
Sidesperson Co-ord.	Kevin LeMoine	(705) 252-6528
Audio/Visual	David Paradis	

Wednesday Service

February 24, 2021

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

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.

Celebrant: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let us worship.

VENITE

Psalm 95.1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

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

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

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

For the Lord is a great God,

People: and a great king above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,

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

The sea is his for he made it,

People: and his hands have moulded the dry land.

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

People: and kneel before the Lord our maker.

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 19

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

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 HEBREWS (4:1-10)

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest is still open, let us take care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For indeed the good news came to us just as to them; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, ‘As in my anger I swore, “They shall not enter my rest”’, though his works were finished at the foundation of the world. For in one place it speaks about the seventh day as follows: ‘And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.’ And again in this place it says, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’ Since therefore it remains open for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news

failed to enter because of disobedience, again he sets a certain day—today’—saying through David much later, in the words already quoted, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.’

For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak later about another day. So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; 10 for those who enter God’s rest also cease from their labours as God did from his.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN (3:16-21)

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

Listening to nature

Have you ever listened to nature – just stopped and listened to the natural world around you? The profound silence of being out in the snow or the middle of a desert, the gentle rustling of a breeze through poplars, the twittering of little birds, the crashing of a deer through the undergrowth, the vast silence of space, the call of the loon or the hoot of an owl, the yelping of coyotes in the far distance, the crashing of the sea or the breaking of a storm. The Psalmist declares, “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”

In systematic theology we talk of general revelation – the idea that God is revealed in all things, including nature. The sense that order, beauty, the patterns of life are all part of God’s revelation to us if only we would listen, see and sense God communicating to us through the created order. Jesus entered into the wilderness for forty days for a reason – to hear the voice of God and to struggle with the voice of the tempter, the one who offered the easy way out.

On Ash Wednesday we are signed with ashes, “from the dust of the earth you created us” ... “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.” It is echoed in the funeral liturgy, “earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust” and we are reminded that we are part of the created order and integral to nature. Thus, the more we place ourselves outside of or above nature the more dislocated we become from ourselves and the very cradle of or humanity. The more we reject or dishonour the natural beauty and order of nature – our very home – the more fragmented and destructive our own lives become.

One of the key elements to sustainability is rest. Nature – and humanity - is designed for rest. How ironic that we – the great pursuers of recreation – ignore rest through our twenty-four hour a day 365 days of the year hyper-activity and its associated consumption. And that we who crave rest can never seem to find it. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews assures us that God’s intention is to offer us salvation and that salvation is to be expressed in rest – the Sabbath renewal that restores our humanity and helps us find wholeness. That true rest is to be found in being reconciliation with God and in the reconciliation of humanity in relationship to the created order. That is why the writer of Hebrews connects rest back to the creation narrative of Genesis. And, like the people of the Exodus who found no rest in the wilderness, our Promised Land is to be found in the constant refrain and invitation to find rest “today” through the reconciling work of God.

All too often we read John 3:16 as “For God so loved humans” rather than that God “so loved the world/cosmos/all created order.” One of the central narratives of the Genesis story is that the cosmos suffers through our rebellion. What has become increasingly clear to global humanity that this is profoundly true in our time. That we, through our constant pursuit of wealth, accumulation and consumption are destroying the earth and now we are literally littering space. That maybe if we were to listen to creation we would not only hear the voice of God but also hear creation groan under the weight of our destructive consumption and call out to us in suffering. Maybe we would finally recognise that our salvation is not to be found in our individual response to God’s invitation to rescue us for heaven, but rather in our corporate response that sees our own salvation so intricately woven into the salvation of all of creation.

My hope and prayer over this Lenten season is that you would give yourself an opportunity to listen. To listen to Scripture read, to listen to God in prayer and reflection, to listen to your own inner thoughts and struggles, to listen to your neighbour as yourself and to listen to nature. And as you listen, I hope you hear the voice of God inviting you and all of creation into reconciling rest.

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

Litany 8

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

Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **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:

Lenten Devotions and Lenten Study – Norm Savill is sending our daily Lenten devotions and we are meeting via Zoom each Thursday at 7:00 during Lent for a Lenten study. Please contact Father Simon or the parish office for more details.

Vestry on Sunday the 28th of February at 12:00 via Zoom or telephone conference. Please contact the parish office for more details.

Church closed for in-church worship for the foreseeable future as we remain in the red zone. The office has been reopened and we are still offering two services on-line each week. From March we will return to recording the Sunday services in the church.

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: David Paradis

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

Tanya North; Amy McDuff May; Brenda & Brian; Mark & Winnie; Derek; Theresa & Pete; Jaxon Croft; Ron & Jane Lewis; Staff and Residence at Roberta Place; Michelle & Ian Sinclair; Sean; Brian W.; Kevin H.; Diane M.; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Sophia L; Marianne S.; Amanda Stewart; Kathryn; Kadeem Broomes; Anna Sellers; Marty

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:

Cecilia Mowat; Brenda Jessem; Jen Galicinski; Sheri Scott; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Stephanie; Fr. Murray; Amy P. & Family; Marg Abbott; Livia & Neil Purcell; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Michelle & Ian Sinclair; Donna Wilson; Garn Mennell; Margaret & 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 Dioceses of Argyll & The Isles (Scotland)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Rev. Canon John Anderson, Canon Pastor