

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday, July 14, 2021

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Prayer Chain	Gail Jones	(705) 726-4221
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Music Directors	Gayle Haley	(705) 728-3859
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Custodians	Chanda Farrell	(705) 828-7186
	Dave Flavelle	
Sidesperson Co-ord.	Kevin LeMoine	(705) 252-6528
Audio/Visual	David Paradis	

Wednesday Service

July 14, 2021

11:00 a.m.

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.

*The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.
Deuteronomy 30.14*

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 38

Celebrant: O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger; *

People: do not punish me in your wrath.

Celebrant: For your arrows have already pierced me, *

People: and your hand presses hard upon me.

Celebrant: There is no health in my flesh, because of your indignation; *

People: there is no soundness in my body, because of my sin.

Celebrant: For my iniquities overwhelm me; *

People: like a heavy burden they are too much for me to bear.

Celebrant: My wounds stink and fester *

People: by reason of my foolishness.

Celebrant: I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; *

People: I go about in mourning all the day long.

Celebrant: My loins are filled with searing pain; *

People: there is no health in my body.

Celebrant: I am utterly numb and crushed; *

People: I wail, because of the groaning of my heart.

Celebrant: O Lord, you know all my desires, *

People: and my sighing is not hidden from you.

Celebrant: My heart is pounding, my strength has failed me, *

People: and the brightness of my eyes is gone from me.

Celebrant: My friends and companions draw back from my affliction; *

People: my neighbours stand afar off.

Celebrant: Those who seek after my life lay snares for me; *

People: those who strive to hurt me speak of my ruin and plot treachery all the day long.

Celebrant: But I am like the deaf who do not hear, *

People: like those who are mute and do not open their mouth.

Celebrant: I have become like one who does not hear, *

People: and from whose mouth comes no defence.

Celebrant: For in you, O Lord, have I fixed my hope; *

People: you will answer me, O Lord my God.

Celebrant: For I said, "Do not let them rejoice at my expense, *

People: those who gloat over me when my foot slips."

Celebrant: Truly, I am on the verge of falling, *

People: and my pain is always with me.

Celebrant: I will confess my iniquity *

People: and be sorry for my sin.

Celebrant: Those who are my enemies without cause are mighty, *

People: and many in number are those who wrongfully hate me.

Celebrant: Those who repay evil for good slander me, *

People: because I follow the course that is right.

Celebrant: O Lord, do not forsake me; *

People: be not far from me, O my God.

Celebrant: Make haste to help me, *

People: O Lord of my salvation.

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 BOOK OF ACTS 12:18-25

When morning came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. When Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered them to be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there. Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. So, they came to him in a body; and after winning over Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for a reconciliation, because their country depended on the king's country for food.

On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat on the platform, and delivered a public address to them. The people kept shouting, 'The voice of a god, and not of a mortal!' And immediately, because he had not given the glory to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. But the word of God continued to advance and gain adherents. Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Mark 2:13-22

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus went out again beside the lake; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax-collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his disciples, 'Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?'

When Jesus heard this, he said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.' Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, 'Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?' Jesus said to them, 'The wedding-guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they?'

As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. 'No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.'

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

NEW BEGINNINGS

I can just imagine Levi's tax collector's reciting Psalm 38 as a personal prayer, "O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger; do not punish me in your wrath. For your arrows have already pierced me, and your hand presses hard upon me. There is no health in my flesh, because of your indignation; there is no soundness in my body, because of my sin. For my iniquities overwhelm me; like a heavy burden they are too much for me to bear. My wounds stink and fester by reason of my foolishness. I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; I go about in mourning all-the-day long. My loins are filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body. I am utterly numb and crushed; I wail, because of the groaning of my heart."

There was everything about Levi's profession that meant he was religiously defiled and therefore shunned by the community. He worked for the Romans and their local puppets in-order to force people to pay their taxes. In addition, he could defraud folk a little further by securing his own cut over-and-above what he needed to pass on to the Romans. His social company would have been others who were shunned by the community – those labeled as sinners, those who intentionally and willfully chose to live in antagonism to the Law of Moses.

Yet, in Mark's rather crisp and driven account of the Gospel, Jesus approaches him at his tax booth and said, "Follow me" – "Akolouthei moi". The tone of the verb "follow" is such that it is not so much as a request and more of a strong statement bordering on a command. Mark indicates that Levi "got up and followed" Jesus.

We then skip to Jesus "reclining" – *katakeisthai* – at Levi's house with what Mark refers to as "many tax collectors and sinners". While the NRSV uses the word "sit" the original Greek that is used twice in this verse is recline – head to foot with those you ate with. Mark further points out that this group was large because "there were many who followed" Jesus. In essence, Jesus did not simply call Levi to follow him and then to eat with him – to share hospitality as a sign of acceptance – but that there were many like Levi who Jesus also invited to follow and to eat with him. I can imagine this large group of social outcasts all lying down on rugs

and low couches at Levi's house, sharing food out of common dishes, eating with their hands and having a wonderful time together.

Such meals in Jesus' day were not private events. They were often held in courtyards that were public and where a crowd could gather to watch and listen in on the conversation. One can only imagine that there would be a group of the religiously devote folk – in this case the scribes who meticulously write down the Law and the Pharisees who enforced it – standing in the crowd and watching and commentating. They turn to the other disciples of Jesus and ask, "Why does he (Jesus) eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus must have been in earshot of them because he replies, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." Again, we could have an image in our head of the all-pervasive and all-consuming nature of our pitiful state before God found in Psalm 38 that consumes even our physical wellbeing. But for Hebrews – who thought of illness and wellness very holistically – there is everything in Jesus' response and his very hospitable presence with those labelled as "sinners" that speaks of their full restoration to wholeness in his call on them.

Of course, it is not just the scribes and Pharisees who are bothered by what Jesus is doing, how he is feasting and partying with "sinners". A group of folk notice how self-denying the disciples of John the Baptist and the Pharisees are, in that they fast. In their own confusion, they ask Jesus why his disciples do not fast. His response is again indicative of the idea of hospitality and celebration being an integral part of restoration and wholeness, 'The wedding-guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. 'No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.'

Pray God that we might have the faith to follow Jesus into wholeness and healing and find him the capacity for that which is new. Forgive us for our constant need to patch and mend that which is beyond repair and help us to find new life in our shared acceptance, affirmation, hospitality and communion in Christ.

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

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

(Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer.")

Celebrant: Let us pray for the peace of the world: the Lord grant that we may live together in justice and faith.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Let us pray for this country, and especially for Queen Elizabeth, the Governor General Mary Simon, the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and all in authority: the Lord help them to serve this people according to his holy will.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray for children and young people: the Lord guide their growth and development.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray for the sick: the Lord deliver them and keep them in his love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray for all who are condemned to exile, prison, harsh treatment, or hard labour, for the sake of justice and truth: the Lord support them and keep them steadfast.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: We remember the prophets, apostles, martyrs, and all who have borne witness to the gospel: the Lord direct our lives in the same spirit of service and sacrifice.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

People: Amen.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. May we find peace in your service, and in the world to come, see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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: Special Vestry – Sunday the 18th of July at 11:00 – in-church and on Zoom to vote of the audited statements.

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: 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:

Lawrence Bornais; Roxanne Reid & Family & Bill Goodyer Family; Garn Mennell; Jane & Ron Lewis; 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; Sherrie O.; 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:

Theresa & Pete; Cecilia Mowat; Tanya Bowskill; The Wade Family; Sophia L; Jane Tutty; Jean Glionna; Dorothy & Chuck; Kevin Hamann; 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; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; 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:

Diocese of the Coast (Nigeria)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

St. Margaret's, Barrie