

## ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

161 Hanmer St. W., Barrie, On L4N 7S1 (705) 721-9528

www.stmargaretbarrie.ca Email: [stmarg@rogers.com](mailto:stmarg@rogers.com)

Fax: (705) 721-9455



### Sunday, January 24, 2021 Epiphany Three

|                          |                               |                |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Incumbent                | The Rev. Simon Bell           | (416) 570-6898 |
| Honorary Associate       | Alex Hewitt                   | (705) 333-6650 |
| Rector's Warden          | Grant Robinson                | (705) 726-0147 |
| Rector's Warden          | Pauline Cook                  | (705) 737-0605 |
| People's Warden          | Peter Beckett                 | (705) 733-1741 |
| Deputy Rector's Warden   | David Paradis                 | (705) 728-7024 |
| Deputy People's Warden   | Laura Johnston                | (705) 322-2186 |
| Office Administrator     | Colleen Hamann                | (705) 728-8761 |
| Treasurer                | Joy Packham                   | (705) 721-4482 |
| Envelope Sec'ty          | Pam Kernen                    | (705) 733-5286 |
| Sunday School Sup't      | Eileen Cunningham             | (705) 715-8468 |
| Lay Associate, Missional | Beth Steffler                 | (705) 728-1543 |
| Lay Associate, Pastoral  | Amy Pauley                    | (613) 404-3349 |
| Prayer Chain             | Gail Jones                    | (705) 726-4221 |
| Chancel Co-ordinator     | Diane MacCormack              | (705) 734-2957 |
| Flower Chancel           | Sharon Zacchigna              | (705) 252-0731 |
| Music Directors          | Gayle Haley                   | (705) 728-3859 |
|                          | Craig Snider                  | (705) 722-1117 |
| Custodians               | Chanda Farrell/ Dave Flavelle | (705) 828-7186 |
| Sidesperson Co-ord.      | Kevin LeMoine                 | (705) 252-6528 |
| Audio/Visual             | David Paradis                 |                |

**SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 2021**  
**Epiphany Three Morning Prayer**

10:00 a.m.

**THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

Officiant: Lord, open our lips,

**People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant: 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.**

**All: Alleluia!**

*To us a child is born: O come, let us worship.  
The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:  
O come, let us worship.*

**Venite**

*Psalm 95.1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, 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. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

**Psalm 62:5-12**

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah

Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no confidence in extortion and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

**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**

A READING FROM JONAH 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you."

So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across.

Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The word of the Lord.

**People:**           **Thanks be to God.**

A READING FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The word of the Lord.

**People:**           **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK (1:14-20)

**People:**           **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen.

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."

And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.

Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of Christ.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **Jonah – showing God’s mercy and grace**

We can assume that the book of Jonah was written during the period when the Assyrian Empire was coming to prominence or when it had reached that prominence between 850 to 605 B.C.E. It is part of the cluster of prophetic books at a time when the influence and power of the people of Israel had been greatly diminished and they felt themselves significantly under threat by the Assyrians. Theologically its emphasis is upon the idea that God of Israel – YAHWEH – was a universal God. And, while Jonah starts off with the underlying assumption that this universal God will and should bring judgment on all of humanity and especially on the Assyrians, it resolves itself with mercy and grace. The key to understanding the book is actually comedy. It is well worth laughing at Jonah because he helps us to learn to laugh at ourselves.

So Jonah is this little two-bit prophet living in an obscure village in the region encompassing the old Kingdom of Israel and God calls him to go and proclaim judgment and repentance on the city-state of Nineveh – the capital of the Assyrian Empire – on the Tigris River. Within his prophesy is the provision that if they repent then God will spare them.

So Jonah gets on a boat at Joppa on the Mediterranean Sea heading for Tarshish or Spain – the completely opposite direction to the one he is meant to be going. Jonah then becomes the centre of a series of calamities including a storm, being thrown over-board by sailors, being swallowed by a giant fish. The way God resolves each calamity then – whether you read them as a parable, allegory or literally – is by showing the reader that this universal God controls everything.

We enter the story this morning where God gives Jonah a second chance to go to Nineveh. So we are told in the text (Jonah 3:1-2), “The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ‘Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it what I tell you.’”

The question that we need to ask though is, “Why is Jonah so reluctant to go to Nineveh?” Jonah actually gives us that answer right at the end of the book when he (4:2) says, “O Lord! Is this not what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning: for I knew you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.” While we might think that Jonah had difficulty believing that the people would repent or that God would show them mercy and grace, in contrast he was mad at the idea that God would do this to the very people he despises!

As an Israelite who had suffered under the wrath of the Assyrian Empire or anticipated suffering under their wrath, Jonah knew all too well that God was not going to resolve the situation in a way that suited what Jonah thought the outcome should be. In contrast, in Jonah’s mind it would have been better if they did not have the opportunity to repent and thus to experience mercy and grace. His task then was to ensure they did not hear it from him!

When Jonah finally obeys God and gets to Nineveh he is only a third of his way through the mission when the whole lot of them repent and do so with incredible sincerity. In response God shows them mercy and grace and Jonah is serious miffed! In response he goes to sit on a hill to sulk and tells God how mad he is because he knew this was going to be how it turned out before he had even left home. God then gives Jonah a little object lesson, which again shows God's sovereignty over humanity and nature. In the night he causes a plant to grow up over Jonah on his little hill that provides him with shade during the heat of the day, but then God causes it to wither. This makes Jonah even madder and he complains to God that this is simply not fair!

But God replies (Jonah 4:10-11), "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city in which are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right from their left" – and then to appeal to the bunny-hugger in Jonah in case he is struggling to just be with humans – "and also many animals."

I am sure many of us have heard sermons on the story of Jonah that indicate to us that we simply need to get off our butts and do what God has asked us to do. And, lo-and-behold, that is true. In that regard what amazes me is not that some of us take so long to get it right, but that God keeps coming back to us. But more central to the story of Jonah is that great question, "How do we deal with life when we think our answer is better than God's, particularly when it involves people we do not like or who do us harm?"

It really is one thing knowing that God wants to show the folk we detest love, mercy and grace. But it quite another when God asks us to tell them that! Oddly enough, God does not ask Jonah to go and get his attitude straight before he does it. He simply asks him to do it and then offers him a different perspective after he has done it. Pray God that we might have the courage to love those who God loves and to show mercy and grace to those whom God shows mercy and grace.

**People:**        **Amen**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**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**

### **Litany 13 Incarnation**

**Officiant:**     In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, "Lord, grant us peace." By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

**People:**        **Lord, grant us peace.**

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

**People: Lord, grant us peace.**

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

**People: Lord, grant us peace.**

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

**People: Lord, grant us peace.**

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

**People: Lord, grant us peace.**

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

**People: Lord, grant us peace.**

Officiant: 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.**

## **THE COLLECT**

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; 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**

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

**People: 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.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **NOTICES**

### **Blessing**

Officiant: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour and grant us peace.

People:           **Amen.**

**Assisting Father Simon Bell today:**

Officiant/Preacher:   Fr. Simon  
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:**

Ron & Jane Lewis; Staff and Residence at Roberta Place; Michelle & Ian Sinclair; Sean; Brian W.; Jenn Reid; Kevin H.; Diane M.; Cecilia Mowat; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Sophia L; Marianne S.; Amanda Stewart; Kathryn; Kadeem Broomes; Anna Sellers; Marty; Brenda & Brian.

**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:**

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 Lokoja (Nigeria) and Saint Mark the Evangelist (South Africa)

**In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:**

The Canadian Council of Churches