

**Wednesday 16 November 2021**

# St Margaret of Scotland



Margaret was born in 1046, the daughter of the Anglo-Saxon royal house of England but was educated in Hungary where her family lived in exile during the reign of Danish kings in England.

After the Norman invasion in 1066, when her royal person still was a threat to the new monarchy, she was welcomed in the royal court of Malcolm III of Scotland and soon afterwards married him in 1069. Theirs was a happy and fruitful union and Margaret proved to be both a civilising and a holy presence. She instituted many church reforms and founded many monasteries, churches, and pilgrim hostels. She was a woman of prayer as well as good works who seemed to influence for good all with whom she came into contact.

She died on this day in the year 1093.

**Sermon** © The Revd Tim Chesterton of St Margaret's Anglican Church, Edmonton, Alberta (adapted).

**Liturgy and prayers of intercession** © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

**Bible readings** © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

All the hymns are hosted on YouTube. Please click on the links to hear them.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

## Introduction and welcome

**HYMN 1 Hail the day that sees him rise** [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

### The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

### The Preparation

**All Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom 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.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

God has called us to follow Christ,

and has formed us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Let us confess the times when we have failed to heed this call.

**All** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
**Amen.**

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

**All** Amen.

## **The Gloria**

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

**All** Glory be to God in Heaven,  
Songs of joy and peace we bring,  
Thankful hearts and voices raising,  
To creation's Lord we sing.  
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,  
Glory be to God our King:  
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,  
Bore the load of this world's sin;  
Only Son of God the Father,  
You have brought us peace within.  
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Now your glorious reign begin:  
Now your glorious reign begin.

**You O Son of God are Holy,  
You we praise with one accord.  
None in heav'n or earth is like you,  
Only you are Christ the Lord.  
With the Father and the Spirit,  
Ever worshipped and adored:  
Ever worshipped and adored.**

### **The Collect for Margaret of Scotland**

God, the ruler of all,  
who called your servant Margaret to an earthly throne  
and gave her zeal for your Church and love for your people  
that she might advance your heavenly kingdom:  
mercifully grant that we who commemorate her example  
may be fruitful in good works  
and attain to the glorious crown of your saints;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

### **First reading**

A reading from the book of Proverbs

A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.' Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates. *Proverbs 31: 10, 20, 26-31*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Second reading**

A reading from St Paul's Second Letter to Timothy

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

*2 Timothy 1:1-7*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 Refugee**

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

## **Gospel reading**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

*Matthew 13:44-46*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

Today is the feast day of St. Margaret, the patron saint of Scotland, who died on 16 November 1093. She was a member of the aristocracy and came into a position of great influence as Queen of Scotland, but she did not think she had been given that position in order to lord it over others. Instead, she is remembered as a person who spent her life serving others.

Margaret was twenty-three years old when she married King Malcolm of Scotland. She had hoped to become a nun but had to marry for political reasons. Although she was in a great position, and very wealthy according to the standard

of the day, she saw herself merely as the steward of riches. She lived in the spirit of inward poverty, looking on nothing as her own but recognising that everything she possessed was to be used for the purposes of God. As Queen, she continued to live the ordered life of prayer and work that she had learned from her education among Benedictine monks. She came to have the leading voice in the changes that affected both the social and the spiritual life of Scotland and she had this influence because of the depth of her husband's love for her. Malcolm didn't share his wife's contemplative temperament, but he was strongly influenced by her godly character and tended to follow her advice in ordering his life and that of the church and people in Scotland. Margaret was not yet fifty when she died; some people say that she had worn out her body with excessive fasting and long hours of prayer in cold churches.

Margaret found herself in a position of great power and wealth, but she saw her wealth and power as having been entrusted to her to do good, and she gave her life to serving others in the spirit of Christ. What might we learn from her today?

Perhaps the first thing we need to learn from is her balance of work and prayer. The Benedictine ideal was an ordered life, with certain times of day set apart for prayer, and others spent in active work for the good of others. Do we remember to set aside time for prayer in our busy lives?

We can also learn from the way she was successful in her reforms because of the influence of her godly life. Even people who disagreed with her were impressed with the way she lived out her faith, despite the fact that she didn't make a big song and dance about it. When we disagree with others, do we continue to reflect the grace and love of Christ? Do we live in such a way that we influence other even in spite of our disagreements with them?

The third thing we can learn from Margaret is the way she lived out what is sometimes called 'the ministry of the basin and the towel'. This phrase refers to the story of the last supper, where Jesus 'got up from the table, took of his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and wipe them with the towel that was tied around him' (John 13:4-5). After he finished this job, he pointed out to his disciples that he, their teacher and master, saw no contradiction between being their lord and being their servant. 'If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet' (John 13:14).

This is the sort of life that Margaret lived. Although she was the Queen of Scotland, she saw no contradiction between being the Queen and serving the poorest of the poor. She understood herself first of all as a servant of Christ; everything else followed from that.

May we be like her in her devotion to Christ and to his ministry as the Servant King.



This is an extract (slightly adapted) from a sermon by the Revd Tim Chesterton of St Margaret's Anglican Church, Edmonton, Alberta) preached on 16 November 2008. The full text is available [here](#).

## The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
the source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of intercession

We pray for the flourishing of God's gifts to his Church, saying:

Jesus, Lord of your Church,

**All In your mercy hear us.**

God our Father, you give us gifts that we may work together  
in the service of your Son:

bles the leaders of your Church,  
that they may be firm in faith,  
and humble before you.

Jesus, Lord of your Church,

**All In your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who teach,  
that they may increase our understanding,  
and be open to your word for them.

Jesus, Lord of your Church,

**All In your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who minister healing,  
that they may bring wholeness to others,  
yet know your healing in themselves.

Jesus, Lord of your Church,

**All In your mercy hear us.**

Bless those through whom you speak,  
that they may proclaim your word in power,  
yet open their ears to your gentle whisper.

Jesus, Lord of your Church,

**All In your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who work in your world today,  
that in the complexity of their daily  
lives they may live for you, fulfil your purposes,  
and seek your kingdom first.

Jesus, Lord of your Church,

**All In your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who are uncertain of their gifts  
and those who are powerless in this world's eyes,  
that they may be made strong in your gift of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, Lord of your Church,

**All Hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever.**

**Amen.**

## **The peace**

We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
We belong to him through faith,  
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

**All And also with you.**



**HYMN 3 Behold the lamb**

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

## The Dismissal

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,  
may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,  
may the gifts of the Spirit equip you  
to serve and worship God;  
and the blessing of God the Almighty:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

**HYMN 4 Song of the servant**

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
And now we give thanks, most gracious God,  
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses  
and glorified in the assembly of your saints.  
The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
We, your holy Church, acclaim you.  
In communion with angels and archangels,  
and with all who served you on earth and worship you now in heaven,  
we raise our voice to proclaim your glory,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, 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.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with Margaret of Scotland and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

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

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All** We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us.  
**Amen.**

Communion is distributed.

### **Prayer after Communion**

God, the source of all holiness  
and giver of all good things:  
may we who have shared at this table  
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth  
be welcomed with all your saints  
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord..

**All** **Amen**

**All** **Almighty God,**  
**we thank you for feeding us**  
**with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**  
**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies**  
**to be a living sacrifice.**  
**Send us out in the power of your Spirit**  
**to live and work**  
**to your praise and glory.**  
**Amen.**