

St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church
Keller, Texas

An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols
&

The Holy Eucharist
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020

Welcome! If you are new to St. Martin's please drop us a line to let us know a little more about you and your household so we can find ways to include you in our life together. We hope this service of worship will be a source of strength and inspiration for your spiritual journey.

[CLICK HERE OR USE THE QR CODE TO DROP US A LINE](#)



Those worshipping in their cars in the parking lot can listen to the service on FM channel 87.9

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Brahms (1833-1897)

WELCOME

HYMN 102

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
 *3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
 *5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 veiled to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Smith Family, Aimee, Joshua, Frank and Gwendolyn, will light the Advent Wreath today.

Celebrant

Last Sunday we lighted the candle of joy. We light it and the candles of hope and peace again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring us everlasting peace and joy. The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of Love. Its light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. We light this candle today to remind us of how God's perfect love is found in Jesus.

Collect of the Day

Page 212, Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant

A Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this *city*. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

Genesis 3:1-22

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and

that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

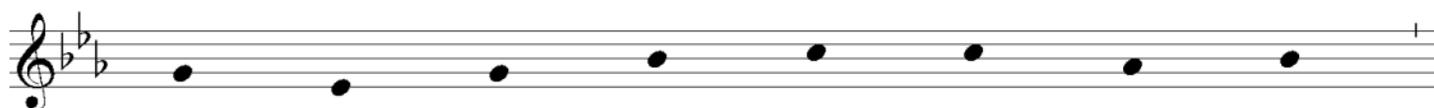
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

To the woman he said,

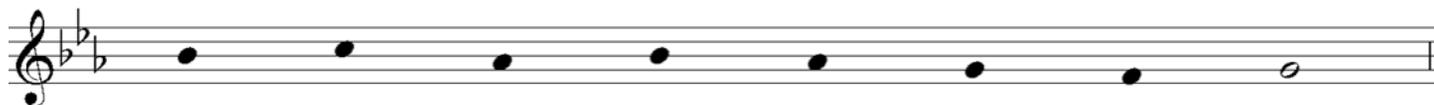
"I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you."
And to the man he said,
"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them. Then the Lord God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever."

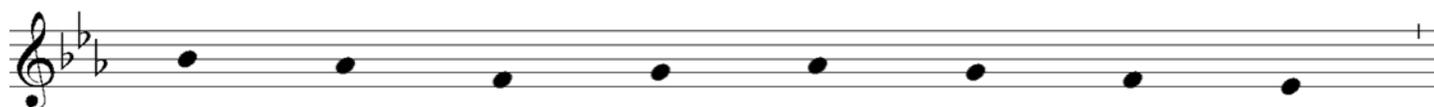
Lector Here ends the lesson.



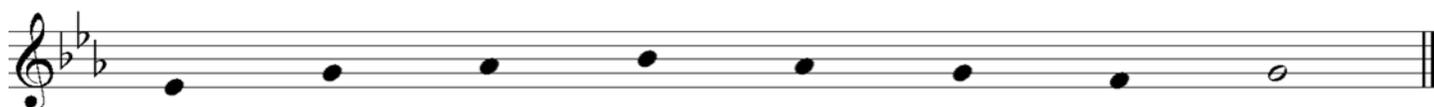
1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
 2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse
 3 When this old world drew on toward night,
 4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now
 5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,
 * 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
 2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
 3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
 4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
 5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
 6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child
 4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
 4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
 5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4;
 acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956) Copyright ©1984, Bruce Neswick. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Isaiah 40:1-11

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
 says your God.
 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
 and cry to her
 that she has served her term,
 that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Lector Here ends the lesson.

Hymn 67

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

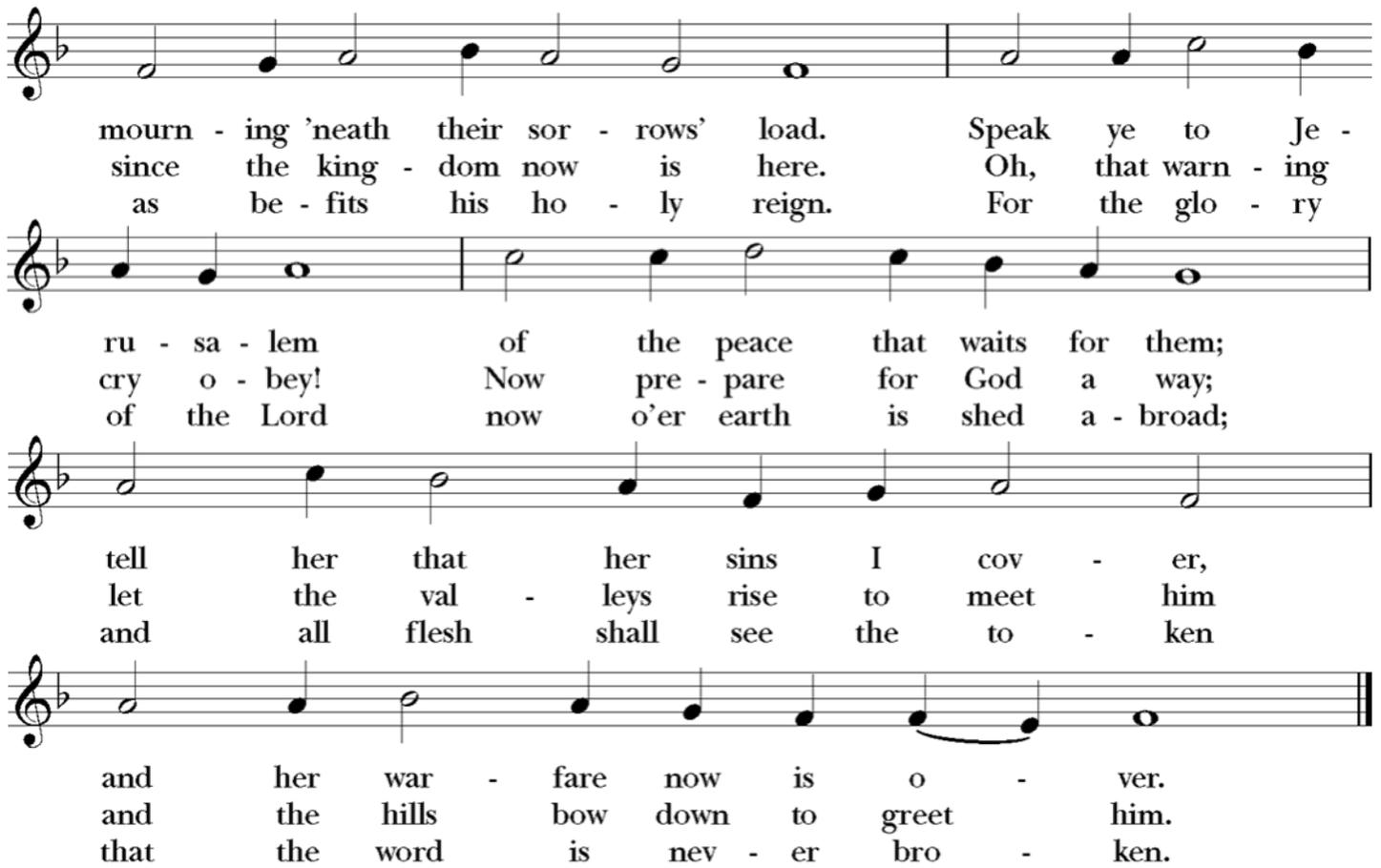
PSALM 42



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry
ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;
tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken
and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*

Isaiah 7:10-15

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us."

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

Lector Here ends the lesson.

Carol

O Magnum Mysterium M. Lauridsen (b. 27 Feb 1943)
Marcie Ellen Duplantis, soprano

LATIN TEXT:

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepe! Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia.

ENGLISH TEXT:

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Micah 5: 2-4

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
 Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.
 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth.

Lector Here ends the lesson.

Hymn 78

O Little Town of Bethlehem

FOREST GREEN

Unison or harmony



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Zephaniah 3: 14-18

The Lord will be among us; we are summoned to rejoice and sing.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
 shout, O Israel!
 Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
 O daughter Jerusalem!
 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
 he has turned away your enemies.
 The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
 you shall fear disaster no more.
 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
 Do not fear, O Zion;
 do not let your hands grow weak.
 The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
 a warrior who gives victory;
 he will rejoice over you with gladness,
 he will renew you in his love;
 he will exult over you with loud singing
 as on a day of festival.
 I will remove disaster from you,
 so that you will not bear reproach for it.

Lector Here ends the lesson.

Anthem

Rejoice Greatly! from Messiah
 Marcie Ellen Duplantis, soprano

Handel (1685-1759)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee; He is the righteous Savior, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

Luke 1:26-56

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Lector Here ends the lesson.

Hymn 81

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ER IST EIN ROS



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,



Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;



It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and



cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr, Theodore Baker (1851-1934). st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr, Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940* Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

A period of silent reflection follows the Sermon

THE NICENE CREED

Page 358, Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant and People

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE RECTOR SEARCH

Intercessor and People

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on St. Martin's, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM IV

Page 388, Book of Common Prayer

You may use the "live chat" feature in YouTube to add your own petitions at this time.

Intercessor

Let us pray for the Church and for the world saying, God in your goodness, Hear our prayer.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray especially for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Scott and Rayford, our Bishops; Ron, Ayo, Paula, Judy, Frank, and Diana, our clergy; Joe our Organist/Choirmaster; Liza our Children's Minister, and Jim our Assistant Music Director.

In our [Anglican Cycle of prayer](#) we pray for Pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.

In our [Diocesan Cycle of Prayer](#) we pray for Trinity in Dublin, Holy Trinity in Eastland, and All Saints' in Fort Worth.

Silence

God, in your goodness
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

God, in your goodness
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

God, in your goodness
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week: Luca, Sue Ellen, Suzanne

We pray for those who are traveling:

We pray for those with employment concerns: Rick, Jeff, Janet, Rebecca, Mark, Aaron, Sarah, Collin, Chris, Cherie and all those who are out of work at this time.

We pray for those in the military: Ethan, Devin, Jonathan, Colin, Rachel, Mark, Jeremy, Patrick, Rich, Meagan, Stephen, Sheena, James, Edward, Brandon, Scott, Jim, Paul, Dylan, Dustin, Jason, John, Deion, Tanner, Benjamin, Timian, Will, John, James, Chris, Kip, Steve, Alex, Christopher, Christian and all soldiers and civilians in harm's way.

Silence

God, in your goodness
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

We pray for those on the parish prayer list for healing or support: Shawn, Mary Jane, Jenny, Molly, Margaret, Ann, Ernie, Wayne, Brant, Jill, Barbara, Florence, Steve, John, Paul, Paula, Rick, Asami, Genevieve, Kory, Meesh, Barbara, Corbin, Michael, Mariapai, Patty, Mark, Valerie, Ron, Gayle and for all their family members and caregivers.

We pray for all whose lives are affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic, for healthcare professionals, for public health officials, for first responders, and for scientists seeking solutions. Protect and defend those charged with distribution and administration of vaccines, that their efforts, along with all our efforts to subdue this virus, will hasten the day when all people everywhere will once again be safe.

Silence

God, in your goodness

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, [especially ____] that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

God, in your goodness

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY

Please take a few moments to offer yourself - your time, your talents, your gifts, and your service to God with a prayer that your offering may be pleasing in God's sight, spread God's love, and make a difference in God's world. You may text 817-270-6880 with an amount + GENERAL or PLEDGE to give or you may scan this QR code to give online, or [click HERE](#).



The Christmas Offering has been designated by the Vestry for St. Martin's Christmas Gift in support of our Outreach Ministries. To contribute, [click HERE](#) or scan the QR code. To find out about all our Outreach projects for December, [click HERE](#).



OFFERTORY

Sung by our guest quartet

The King Shall Come

Michael Linton

1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills,
and life to joy awakes.

2 Not as of old a little child
to bear, and fight, and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.

3 O brighter than the rising morn
when He, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.

4 The King shall come when morning dawns,
and earth's dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn,
the day that e'er shall last.

5 And let the endless bliss begin,
by weary saints foretold,
when right shall triumph over wrong,
and truth shall be extolled.

6 The King shall come when morning dawns,
and light and beauty brings;
"Hail, Christ the Lord!" Thy people pray,
come quickly, King of kings!

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION 380 ST. 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

From Enriching Our Worship

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 praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.
From before time you made ready the creation.
Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:
sun, moon, and stars;
earth, winds, and waters;
and every living thing.
You made us in your image,
and taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;
and yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.
Time and again you called us
to live in the fullness of your love.
And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
“Take, eat:
This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,
with Martin and all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Cantor



This is the true bread which comes down from heaven

All



and gives life to the world. Who - ev - er



eats this bread will live for ev - er.

Centonized Mode 1 melody by Bruce E. Ford, 1992.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

After those at the Altar have received the Sacrament, they will proceed to the Parking Lot to serve those in their vehicles. The driver of each vehicle will take what is needed and serve others inside the vehicle. After you have received, please retain the empty vessels until you exit the Parking Lot, where Ushers will be collecting them so that they can be taken to the Sacristy.

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

Praise to You, Jesus Christ

Buxtehude (1637-1707)

SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

This week's visitors are Phyllis Bess and John Wieden.

Eucharistic Visitors present themselves at the Altar to receive the Sacrament to take to those who are prevented from attending in person. The Celebrant then says,

In the name of this congregation we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.

The People respond,

We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Eucharistic Visitors remain until the Altar Party retires, then leave for their visits.

THE PRAYER OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

From Enriching Our Worship

Celebrant and People

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Leaders in Today's Liturgy

The Very Rev. Ronald D. Pogue
Interim Rector

Phyllis Bess and Deneice Wood
Lector

The Rev. Paula Jefferson
Curate

Phyllis Bess
Intercessor

The Rev. Ayo Omoniyi
Deacon

Aimee, Joshua, Frank and Gwendolyn Smith
Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Dr. Joseph Henry
Organist/Choirmaster

Chuck Ambrose
Video Producer

Marcie Ellen Duplantis
Soprano

Phyllis Bess and John Wieden
Eucharistic Visitors

Emmie Ambrose
Alto

Kerry & Rex Angle
Ushers

Kevin Sutton
Tenor

Joseph Henry
Bass

Linda Seeber
Vestry Person in Charge

Click on the links for more information

NO VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR TODAY

[Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7 pm](#)
[How to receive your Communion kit](#)

[Christmas Day Service of the Word at 9 am Zoom Link](#)

[Lectionary Study](#)

Sundays at 7 pm

[Daily Morning Prayer at 9 am on Zoom](#)

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