

**Welcome to  
St. Martin-in-the Fields  
Episcopal Church**



**Blue Christmas**  
A Service for Hope and Healing  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 19, 2021  
6 pm

## BLUE CHRISTMAS A SERVICE FOR HOPE AND HEALING

Tonight's liturgy unites us with Christ through ritual, language, silence, song, candlelight, oil, and bread. All Christians are invited to the Table of our Lord.

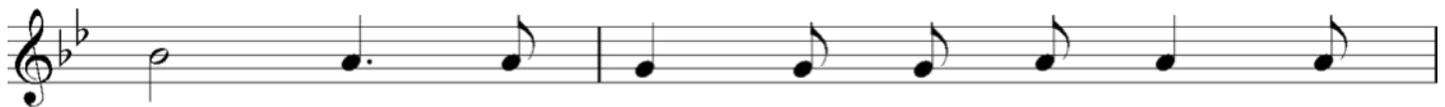
If praying is difficult tonight, we invite you to keep this program and return to this prayer, as you are able:

Gracious God, only source of life and health: Help, comfort, and relieve me, and give your power of healing to those who minister to my needs; that my weakness may be turned to strength and confidence in your loving care; for the sake of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

### HYMN 69

*What is the crying at the Jordan?*

St. Mark's Berkeley



1 What is the cry - ing at Jor - dan? Who  
2 Who then shall stir in this dark - ness, pre -  
3 Lord, give us grace to a - wake us, to  
4 Now comes the day of sal - va - tion, in



hears, O God, the pro - phe - cy? Dark is the  
pare for joy in the win - ter night? Mor - tal in  
see the branch that be - gins to bloom; in great hu -  
joy and ter - ror the Word is born! God gives him -



sea - son, dark our hearts and shut to mys - ter - y.  
dark - ness we lie down, blind - heart - ed, see - ing no light.  
mi - li - ty is hid all heaven in a lit - tle room.  
self in - to our lives; O let sal - va - tion dawn!

Words: Carol Christopher Drake (b. 1933), alt. Copyright ©1971, Carol C. Stone. Music: *St. Mark's Berkeley*, Irish melody from *Danta De: Hymns to God, Ancient and Modern*; harm. Norman Mealy (b. 1923) Copyright ©1971, Norman Mealy. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

*The people's responses are in bold.*

**Celebrant** Grace and peace be with you, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
**People** **And also with you.**  
**Celebrant** Let us pray.

O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

### Officiant

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. We light it again to remember those whom we have lost through death. We remember their names aloud or in the silence of our hearts. We treasure the memories that bind them to us.

On the second Sunday of Advent, we lit the second candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of peace. We light it again to remember the peace Christ brings to our world. We remember his promise: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. We receive the peace of Christ.

On the third Sunday of Advent, we lit the third candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of joy. We light it again to remember the joy that have known as we wait for the joy we will know. We remember our tears of joy.

### HYMN 111

### *Silent Night, Holy Night*

### Stille Nacht



Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,



Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

*Officiant*

Today we light the fourth candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of love. The candle's light reminds us of God's love for us. We remember those we love: those who have gone before us and those we will leave behind. We remember our connection with one another and God. We are loved.

*People*      **Let us remember that God's eternal love surrounds us.**

**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.**

**THE LESSONS**

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS**

Exodus 16:13-15

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 23*

Page 612, Book of Common Prayer

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Lector*           The Word of the Lord.  
*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

John 6:47-51

Before the Gospel

*Celebrant*       The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People*           **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

*After the Gospel*

*Deacon*           The Gospel of Christ.  
*People*           **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

The Rev. Paula Jefferson

*A period of silent reflection follows the Sermon*

**LITANY OF HEALING**

*All stand. The Celebrant introduces the Litany with this bidding:*

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

*The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding*

*Officiant*       Gracious God, we come to you as Christmas approaches. As the nights have been growing longer, the darkness around us has deepened. In this season of our longest nights, we offer to you all that we hold in our hearts. Loving God, hear our prayer.

*People*           **And answer with your love.**

*Officiant* God of all, we are not alone in our loss and sadness. Be with all those whose lives are touched by sadness during the Christmas season. Let your peace fill the world tonight. Loving God, hear our prayer

*People* **And answer with your love.**

*Officiant* Compassionate God, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

*People* **Hear us, O God of life.**

*Officiant* Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

*People* **Hear us, O God of life.**

*Officiant* Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

*People* **Hear us, O God of life.**

*Officiant* Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

*People* **Hear us, O God of life.**

*Officiant* Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

*People* **Hear us, O God of life.**

*Officiant* You are the Lord who does wonders;

*People* **You have declared your power among the peoples.**

*Officiant* With you, O Lord, is the well of life;

*People* **And in your light, we see light.**

*Officiant* Hear us, O Lord of life:

*People* **Heal us, and make us whole.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**

#### **CONFESSION OF NEED**

Let us kneel and confess our need for God's healing grace.

#### *Minister and People*

Compassionate God, we confess our weaknesses and our need for your strengthening touch. We confess that some illnesses stem from our own fault, while others are beyond our control. We turn to

you, source of life, and ask in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ for the gifts of true healing and life in you. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant stands and says*

May the God of love visit you in your times of trial and weakness, and raise you to newness of life, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING**

*The Celebrant may introduce the laying on of hands and anointing with these or similar words*

The ministry of Jesus invites us to new life in God and with each other. In the laying on of hands and anointing we proclaim the Good News that God desires us to be healthy and one in the body of Christ. You are invited to come forward to offer intercession for others or yourself, whatever your sickness of spirit, mind, or body, and ask for healing and wholeness in the Name of the holy and undivided Trinity.

*During the healing, Cantor and People sing Bless the Lord my Soul. [Taizé]*

**Bless the Lord, my soul  
And bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul  
Who leads me into life.**

**THE PEACE**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

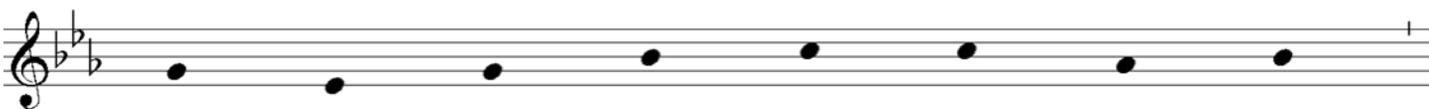
**OFFERTORY**

*Celebrant* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

**OFFERTORY HYMN 60**

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

*Conditor alme siderum*



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.

**HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION 380 ST. 3**

OLD 100TH

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, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C**

Page 369 Book of Common Prayer

*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*  
 God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.  
**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous

Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us.  
By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

*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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,  
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.  
**AMEN.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Softly and Tenderly

Will Thompson (1847-1909)

THE PRAYER OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Page 366 Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 56

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni, Emmanuel



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.; adpt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright ©1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## THE DISMISSAL

## WiFi Password: tLbwy&awy.223

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.

USE THE QR CODE TO DROP US A LINE



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