



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 7:00am and 12noon
Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Welcome. We are so grateful that you have joined us for this service. As a reminder, please wear a mask throughout the service and maintain appropriate distancing from people not in your household. Thank you!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The people sit.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Let us read together from Psalm 103

- ⁸You are full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- ⁹You will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- ¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.
- ¹²As far as the east is from the west, *
so far have you removed our sins from us.
- ¹³As a parent cares for a child, *
so do you care for those who fear you.
- ¹⁴For you yourself know whereof we are made; *
you remember that we are but dust.
- ¹⁵Our days are like the grass; *
we flourish like a flower of the field;
- ¹⁶When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
and its place shall know it no more.
- ¹⁷But your merciful goodness endures for ever on those who fear you, *
and your righteousness on children's children;
- ¹⁸On those who keep your covenant *
and remember your commandments and do them.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

LENTEN INVITATION

All stand. The Presider invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

If ashes are to be imposed, the Presider says the following prayer

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The ashes are imposed with the following words

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

PSALM 51

Let us read together from Psalm 51.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.

⁵And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.

⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

¹⁰Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹²Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

- ¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- ¹⁴I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
- ¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
- ¹⁶Open my lips, O God, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- ¹⁸The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Presider and People together, all kneeling

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Presider continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Priest, stands and, facing the people, says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

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LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Presider: The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan
Assisting Clergy at the 7am service: The Rev. Ernie Lewis
Reader at the 7am service: Carla Harris
Readers at the noon service: Neil Willits, Bob Holm

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan, pamela@churchofstmartin.org
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MINISTRY COUNCIL

Sacred Grounds (Janet Lane): sacredgrounds@churchofstmartin.org

Church in the World (Lynn Zender): world@churchofstmartin.org

Worship (Joannie Cavanagh): worship@churchofstmartin.org

Life in Community (Chair TBD): community@churchofstmartin.org

Christian Formation (Helen Campbell): formation@churchofstmartin.org

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the land on which we are gathered. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally-recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.

Abbreviated Announcements for the Week of March 2

See St. Martin's website for full announcements: <https://churchofstmartin.org/>

St. Martin's Sunday Service Schedule

8am Holy Eucharist Rite I (spoken without music). **In-person only.**

10am Holy Eucharist Rite II (with music and choir). **In-person and online** (Zoom and Facebook Live)

Self-paced Prayer Walk--TODAY at Noon and Sunday, March 6 from 11:30 – 1pm

This self-paced, guided tour of five prayer stations around our church grounds was created last year when gathering indoors was impossible, even for worship. We are bringing it back this year because of the overwhelmingly positive response to it. The tour begins at the welcome station under the main awning in front of the sanctuary. Each station will include a reflection, activity, and optional listen-along podcast (bring your "device" and headphones if you want to listen to the recordings). **Station 3 will include take-home packets of ashes** – participants may go straight to this station for pickup even if they are unable to spend time at the other stations. Masks and social distancing are required. The Prayer Walk is also available on Sunday, March 6, from 11:30 to 1 pm for anyone who was unable to join us today or would like another opportunity for this practice.

Discussion Group—Love is the Way Wednesday Evenings—Starting on March 9

On Wednesday evenings beginning March 9, a group will meet from 7 - 8:30pm on Zoom to discuss the book *Love is the Way* by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Here's some more information about the book and the author, from the publisher:

“Walk the path of love with one of the warmest, most beloved spiritual leaders of our time, and learn how to put faith into action.

As the descendant of slaves and the son of a civil rights activist, Bishop Michael Curry's life illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive

power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, *Love Is the Way* shows us how America came this far and, more important, how to go a whole lot further. The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, competing claims to speak for God. This book will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity.”

It would be great to know if you’re planning to attend; please contact the office (info@churchofstmartin.org) or Helen Campbell (formation@churchofstmartin.org) and let us know.

Living Well through Lent Wednesday Morning Discussion Group–Starting TODAY

Christian Formation at St. Martin’s will offer a Living Well through Lent discussion group on Wednesdays from 10:00 - 11:15 am, starting this coming Wednesday, Ash Wednesday. The group will meet on Zoom and will focus on the theme of “letting go.” For more information or to sign up, please contact the church office (info@churchofstmartin.org) or Helen Campbell (formation@churchofstmartin.org).

The Rector is In! (Or out, actually, depending on how you look at it)

Our rector, Pamela, is going to begin “outdoor office hours” on Monday afternoons during Lent, approximately from 4 to 5pm, beginning on Monday, March 7 (NOTE the change from Thursday). This will be a way to meet up with Pamela and other parishioners who stop in, without needing an appointment. See you there!

Prayers for Ukraine

As we continue to follow the news of war in Eastern Europe, please remember to find trusted and reliable journalistic sources, and take care when sharing information online that contains graphic images or videos. [Presiding Bishop Michael Curry](#) and our diocesan [Bishop Megan Traquair](#) have shared messages of solidarity and hope.

We offer this prayer:

Almighty God, Prince of Peace, we pray for our siblings in Ukraine who are under siege. We ask for your comfort and protection over them as they cower underground, weighing impossible decisions in the darkness. For those who choose to gather their belongings and their children and flee their homeland, we ask that they find refuge in the open arms of their neighbors around the world. For those who remain, to stand and defend, we ask for courage and perseverance in the long nights ahead. You call us all to turn our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, to sow seeds of justice and freedom rather than destruction and despair. Change the hearts of those who roll their tanks through others’ gardens; transform their lust for power into love of neighbor. Change our hearts, O God, whenever we turn away from the suffering of your beloved children. Embolden us to speak truth to power, renouncing violence and instead waging peace on earth. In the name of your Son, refugee and redeemer, we pray. Amen.

Church Office Hours

We are open “virtually” from 9 – 12 on weekdays.

Telephone: (530) 756-0444 Email: info@churchofstmartin.org Web: www.churchofstmartin.org

Our church grounds are always open. All are welcome to use our labyrinth and other outdoor spaces.