

# SAINT MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



*St. Margaret's Episcopal Church is a joyful community, grounded in the love of Christ that welcomes and includes ALL with meaningful worship, service to the community, and commitment to growing as faithful Christians.*

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THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 6, 2020 • 10:00a.m.  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II

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## WELCOME!

We at St. Margaret's are excited by the new life and transformation in this place, and we are delighted that you are here to worship with our parish this Advent season. We are a congregation committed to celebrating Christ's enduring love and respect for the dignity of all.

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, dirt poor, filthy rich, yo no habla Ingles. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying new-borns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like some clergy who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Anglican than the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion," we've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the casino in downtown Baton Rouge, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts...and you!



## WELCOME

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*A member of the community lights 2 candles on the wreath*

*Presider:* May the light that shines forth from them illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas; may the light that shines forth from them illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.

We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
**Amen.**

### ADVENT II WREATH SONG

**Tune:** *Personent Hodie, Words by Doug Chaplin*

Take this flame, let it burn:  
prophets called: "From sin turn,  
come to God, evil spurn:  
God will love and pardon,  
bear away your burden."

*Shine, O candles, shine,  
Burn with love divine,  
to the night,  
comes the light  
of the Father's glory.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### PROCESSION

O COME O COME EMMANUEL (TWO VERSES)

*DUE TO EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY VIRAL SPREAD THROUGH SINGING, THERE WILL BE NO CONGREGATIONAL HYMNODY.*

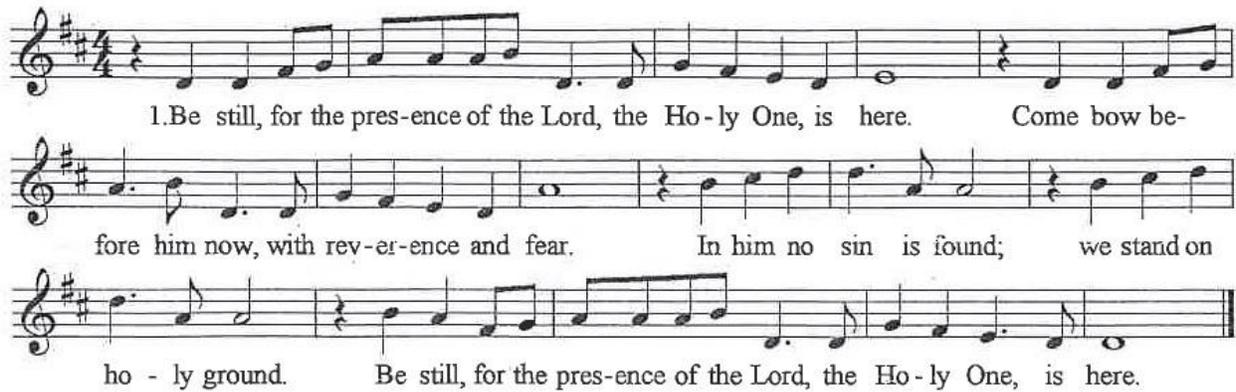
*Presider* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

### COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

### SONG OF PRAISE

Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord  
David Evans



1. Be still, for the pres-ence of the Lord, the Ho-ly One, is here. Come bow be-fore him now, with rev-er-ence and fear. In him no sin is found; we stand on ho-ly ground. Be still, for the pres-ence of the Lord, the Ho-ly One, is here.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST READING

ISAIAH 40:1-11

- <sup>1</sup>“Comfort, O comfort my people,”  
says your God.  
<sup>2</sup>“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.”
- <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:  
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”  
<sup>6</sup>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.  
<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
 when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
 surely the people are grass.  
<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
 but the word of our God will stand forever.  
<sup>9</sup>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!"  
<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might,  
 and his arm rules for him;  
 his reward is with him,  
 and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup>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*    The Word of the Lord.  
*People*    **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALTER

PSALM 85:1-2,8-13

*The Psalm will be chanted by a cantor*

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O Lord; \*  
 you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.  
<sup>2</sup>You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
 and blotted out all their sins.  
<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*  
 for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
 and to those who turn their hearts to him.  
<sup>9</sup>Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
 that his glory may dwell in our land.  
<sup>10</sup>Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
 righteousness and peace have kissed each other.  
<sup>11</sup>Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
 and righteousness shall look down from heaven.  
<sup>12</sup>The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
 and our land will yield its increase.  
<sup>13</sup>Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
 and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

## THE SECOND READING

2 PETER 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years,  
 and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some  
 think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to  
 repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass  
 away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and

everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

### GOSPEL ALLELUIA

Refrain

*Cantor, then all (first time only):*



Hal - le - lu - ia, hal - le - lu - ia,  
hal - le - lu - ia, hal - le - lu - ia!

### THE HOLY GOSPEL

MARK 1:1-8

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### THE SERMON

The Very Rev. Tommy Dillon, *Rector*

### THE NICENE CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Be Still and Know  
Anonymous, arr. Jack Schrader

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Be Still and Know'. It is arranged for voice and piano. The score is in 3/4 time and G major. The lyrics are: 'Be still and know that I am God, be still and know that I am God, be still and know that I am God.' The score consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Let us lift up our voices to God in strength, saying, Be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.

Together as your Church, we long to see your face. Speak to us, Lord, as we walk through the wilderness listening for the sound of your voice. Give our leaders patience, wisdom, and a heart for your will: for *Michael*, our presiding bishop; *Morris*, our bishop; and *Tommy*, our priest.

In your mercy,  
***be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.***

We pray for all who govern, especially *Donald*, our president, and for the Congress and courts of this land. Guide the leaders of the nations as they work for the welfare of their people and the good of all.

In your mercy,  
***be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.***

Awaken us to the suffering of people near us and those far from us. Call forth in us a spirit of generosity and kindness. Equip us to respond to their needs. Arouse in us a sense of urgency to demonstrate your Good News in our lives and voice it, that all may hear. Make us messengers of your love.

In your mercy,  
***be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.***

We ask you to comfort those who have lost hope, who struggle with anxiety about the future, who live in fear. Bring healing to those for whom we now pray: *N*. We pray for those who have died, that their memories be blessings in our lives.

In your mercy,  
***be patient with us and prepare us, Lord.***

*Special intentions of the congregation, the diocese, and the Anglican Communion may be added here.*

Be Still and Know  
Anonymous, arr. Jack Schrader

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Be Still and Know'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are 'Be still and know that I am God, be still and know that'. The second system has a bass clef and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are 'I am God, be still and know that I am God.' The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

### THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

*Presider* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

### THE PEACE

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Announcements are made and blessings for anniversaries and birthdays are given.*

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*The Presider says*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

*Psalm 50:14*



**Contributions – online as well as via snail mail!**

*To enable us to continue doing what we do as a congregation, supporting one another and our neighbors, we particularly appreciate your continued financial support, as you are able. We are checking our mail and making deposits. We also now have a donate button on our website: <https://www.saintmargarets/support-st-margarets>. To give a gift now to the ministries of St Margaret's, you can scan the QR code at the left with your mobile phone. Thank you so much for your support*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

DRAWING NEARER

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### SANCTUS

*Presider 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 People stand or kneel.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him,

you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Presider and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Margaret and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People and Presider*

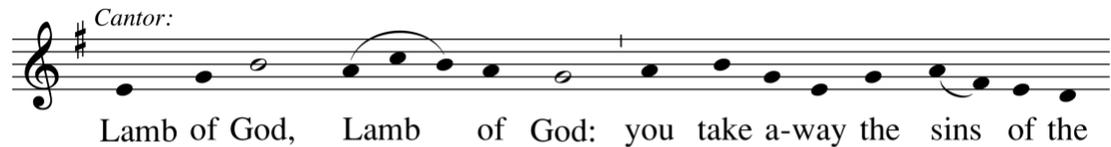
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

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,  
     forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

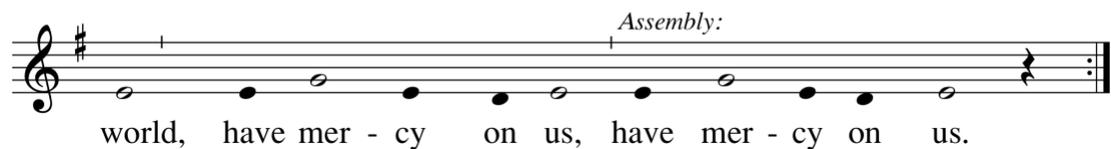
Lamb of God

*Cantor:*



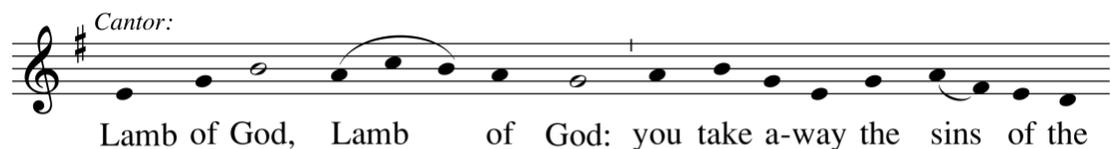
Lamb of God, Lamb of God: you take a-way the sins of the

*Assembly:*



world, have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

*Cantor:*



Lamb of God, Lamb of God: you take a-way the sins of the

*Assembly:*



world, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Missa Emmanuel*, adapt., © 2012, GIA Publications, Inc.

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

***INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION FOUND ON NEWSLETTER INSERT***

COMMUNION MUSIC

COME ALL YOU WEARY

GREAT SILENCE AFTER COMMUNION

*We are invited to share the sounds of silence with one another. The quiet will begin and end with a bell after the post communion hymn. For all of us, young and otherwise, these simple moments of stillness are offered as a chance to find ourselves held in the timeless presence of God.*

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Presider 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.

#### ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

#### CLOSING HYMN

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION

#### THE DISMISSAL

*Presider* Let us bless the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.



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