

# 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 • 8:00a.m.  
Holy Eucharist: Rite I

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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 horse track, 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!



PRELUDE

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)

*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, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### TRISAGION (PRAYED THREE TIMES)

*Presider* Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

*People* **Have mercy upon us.**

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee 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.**

## 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

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. 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.*

*The Presider concludes*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

*Presider* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Minister and People*

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

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.  
Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

*Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

*John 3:16*

## THE PEACE

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

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*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.

*Psalms 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-stmargarets>. 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 with thy spirit.**  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
*Presider* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The People stand or kneel.  
The Presider continues*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

*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.*

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

“Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

*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

*Presider* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

*have mercy upon us.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

*have mercy upon us.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

*grant us thy peace.*

#### PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*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 everyone has sung 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*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

#### THE 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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