



# St. Martin's Anglican Church

February 17, 2021

**Ash Wednesday**

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## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you despise 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 brokenness,  
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.**

**Hymn**      Forty Days and Forty Nights, vs. 1 & 5  
***Organ only***

Forty days and forty nights  
you were fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled.

Saviour, may we hear your voice --  
keep us constant at your side;  
and with you we shall rejoice  
at the eternal Eastertide.

### **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**First Reading**    Joel 2.1-2, 12-17

A Reading from the Book of Joel:

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near - a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride

her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel.*

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*Reader* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Reader* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus 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."

The Gospel of Christ.

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

**Reflection** Rev. Shelly

### **Invitation to Penitence**

*Celebrant* Dear friends in Christ,  
every year at the time of the Christian Passover  
we celebrate our redemption  
through the death and resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration  
and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.  
We begin this holy season  
by remembering our need for repentance,  
and for the mercy and forgiveness  
proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign,  
speaking of the frailty and uncertainty  
of human life, and marking  
the penitence of the community as a whole.

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord,  
to observe a holy Lent  
by self-examination, penitence, prayer,  
fasting, and almsgiving,  
and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

Let us kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

*Silence for reflection.*

### **Psalm 51.1–18**

*Celebrant* Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your loving kindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offences.  
Wash me through and through  
from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

*People* **For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.**

*Celebrant* And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgement.  
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

*People* **For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.  
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

*Celebrant* Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquities.

*People* **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

*Celebrant* Give me the joy of your saving help again  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.  
I shall teach your ways to the wicked,  
and sinners shall return to you.

*People* **Deliver me from death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.  
Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Celebrant* Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.  
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God,  
you will not despise.

### **Litany of Penitence**

*Celebrant* Most holy and merciful Father,  
*All* **we confess to you, 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.**

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

*All* **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*Celebrant* 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.

*All* **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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

*All* **We confess to you, Lord.**

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

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

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

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

*Celebrant* 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,  
*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Celebrant* For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

*Celebrant* Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;  
*All* **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God,  
from the dust of the earth you have created us.  
May these ashes be for us a sign  
of our mortality and penitence,  
and a reminder that only by your gracious gift  
are we given eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

*Celebrant to impose ashes symbolically, saying*  
Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*Invitation to kneel*

*Celebrant* Accomplish in us, O God,  
the work of your salvation,

*People* **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

*Celebrant* By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

*People* **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

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

### **The Peace**

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

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

**Offertory Hymn (organ)** Giver of the Perfect Gift, vs. 1 & 5

Giver of the perfect gift,  
only hope of human race,

hear the prayer our hearts uplift  
trembling at thy throne of grace.

God the holy Trinity,  
grant the mercy we implore;  
God the One, all praise to thee  
through the ages evermore.

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

*Celebrant* Merciful God,  
turn us from sin to faithfulness.  
Accept our offering,  
and prepare us to celebrate  
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Saviour 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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Silence*

*Celebrant* The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge  
and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ  
our Lord: And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn (organ)** Lead Us, Heavenly Father Lead Us, vs. 1 & 3

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.

Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

*Rev. Shelly* Go forth in the name of Christ.

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

*All depart in silence*

**St. Martin's Anglican Church**  
**The Rev. Shelly Pollard, Incumbent**

Rector's Warden: Michelle Loftus  
People's Warden: Brent Levy  
Deputy Wardens: Eugene Farrugia  
Erna Haller

Mr. Edward Moroney, Music Director  
Ms. Gillian Howard, Office Administrator  
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