

APRIL 21, 2024

10:00 AM

EARTH DAY



ST. MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

606 W 15TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS

WWW.SAINTMARTINS.ORG

LOVE, SHARE, & SERVE BOLDLY.

*No matter where you find yourself on your faith journey—join us!
Here you have found a church home where believers congregate to encourage each other
and grow spiritually in an abundant relationship with the Lord. At St. Martin's, we
promote and value an inclusive fellowship. Whether you are young, old, gay, straight,
single, married, partnered—from all walks of life, backgrounds, and cultures—we
welcome you!*

Welcome to our Earth Day service. This special service celebrates God's creation. Today our youth lead us in worship as we explore the relationship between our faith and our ecological consciousness. Our younger generations have expressed concern that as they come into their own, they contend with a planet in worsening environmental crisis. Today's service gives voice to their thoughts, anxieties, and hopes, inviting us to be faithful stewards of God's creation and loving advocates for our youth.

Families with small children may enjoy playing with toys on the Prayground rug in the Narthex. The nursery is open for children 0-4 years. The joyful noise of our young ones is always welcome in this space. Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex or you can listen through your smartphone. The ushers are happy to help you.

*Notes in italics offer directions about the service. **The people's responses are in bold.***

PRELUDE

The tower bell rings as we begin worship.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

REFLECTION

We share a piece to invite us into consideration of scripture and worship through different voices.

EXHALE INHALE

MAGNUS SKYLSTAD, AURORA AKSNES, & GLEN ROBERTS

I was a moving thing
Before I was a human being
I was the ice before it melts
I was the tree before it fell
My dear, come near
Do you understand what is happening?

Crawl beneath the earth
To feel the hunger and the thirst
If you could fly and be the bird
Then you would see the forest burn
My dear, come near
Do you understand what is happening?

Who is calling me for the emergency?
Who is listening to the sirens singing?

We are stood and somehow calm
Within the madness of the storm
With no solution for the scared
Tasting pollution in the air
My dear, come near
Do you feel my hand? It is there

(Exhale) inhale

Take from our world no more

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

GATHERING SONG

Please stand as you are able.

OUR VIEW OF THE STARS FOSTERS WONDER

KREMSER

1. Our view of the stars fosters wonder through grandeur. The sense of a cosmos within
2. We thrive as God nurtures our fragile existence, Our life is related to
3. God give us compassion to live with our neighbors, To value each species con-
4. And these are the gifts we must share with our children, Compassionate love and a
in God's embrace. From infinite chaos we've grown on this
all life on earth, And each generation must deepen in
serve and renew, To challenge those actions that lead to dis-
God-given grace, This love with no limits pervades all cre-
pla-net, To learn, live and care, an inquisitive race.
know-ledge Yet guard against arrogance in our own worth.
truc-tion, To cherish and never take more than our due.
-a-tion, From oceans and forests to infinite space.

PRAYER

Let us pray together. **O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

³**he restores my soul.**

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴**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.**

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶**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.**

I JOHN 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Word of God, word of life **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SONG

Please be seated. Children are invited to come forward for the children's time with the Pastor.

HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD

He's got the whole world in his hands,

He's got the whole world in his hands,

He's got the whole world in his hands,

He's got the whole world in his hands.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand as you are able.

Prayer cards, which can be found in the pew pockets, are collected by the ushers during the hymn. Prayer requests may also be sent via email or text message to prayer@saintmartins.org.

1 The earth a - dorned in ver - dant robe sends prais - es
 2 From out the wood, the birds now sing and each its
 3 O God, a - mid these joys of life, cre - a - tion's

up - ward surg - ing, while soft winds breathe on fra - grant
 song now rais - es, to join with all the u - ni -
 glo - ry beam - ing, grant us the grace to keep your

flow'rs from win - ter now e - merg - ing. The sun - shine
 verse in voic - ing thank - ful prais - es. With hope and
 word and live in love re - deem - ing. All flesh is

bright gives warmth and light to bud - ding blos - soms ten -
 joy their songs em - ploy a rap - turous ex - ul - ta -
 grass, the flow - ers fade, and time is fleet - ing ev -

der, pro - claim - ing sum - mer splen - dor.
 tion in praise of God's cre - a - tion.
 er; God's word re - mains for - ev - er.

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each petition ends with: God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

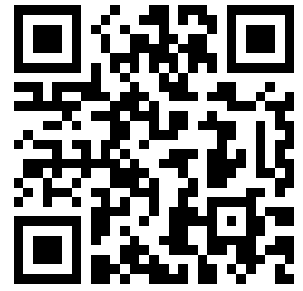
The people greet each other, saying "Peace be with you" or similar.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

*St. Martin's and its ministries are supported
by our offerings of ourselves, our time and our possessions.
Now we give as God has so graciously
given to us. To donate electronically, go to
saintmartins.org/giving or scan the QR code.*



MUSICAL OFFERING

EARTH SONG

FRANK TICHELI

Sing, Be, Live, See This dark stormy hour, the wind, it stirs. The scorched Earth cries out in vain. Oh war and power, you blind and blur. The torn heart cries out in pain. But music and singing have been my refuge, and music and singing shall be my light. A light of song, shining strong. Hallelujah! Hallelujah. Through darkness and pain and strife, I'll sing, I'll be, live, see.

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

Good Shepherd, you spread a table before us. We offer you the gifts of this money, bread, and wine, signs of your gracious love, and tokens of our grateful hearts. Nourish us at the feast of the Lamb, that we may proclaim to all the world your triumphant love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

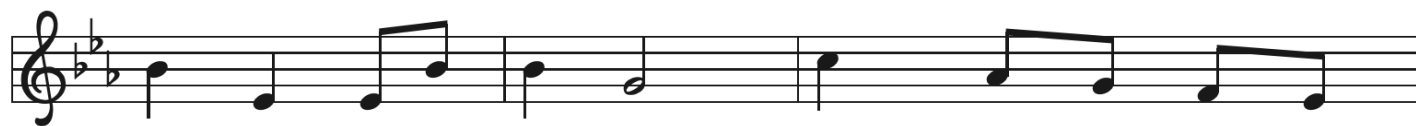
God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be...

To proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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...

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Our communion table is open to all. Everyone is welcome to receive communion regardless of age or denomination. Please come forward to receive the bread then pick up a cup to receive wine. Grape juice cups are in the center of each tray. Gluten free wafers are available if requested. If you prefer to remain in your seat, please pick up a communion cup in the narthex or ask an usher to let the communion assistants know. A Stephen Minister will be in front at the Prayer Station to offer healing prayer during communion. You are invited to light a prayer candle on the table near the altar.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

WE ARE THE WORLD

LIONEL RICHIE & MICHAEL JACKSON

TABLE BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you today, tomorrow, and always. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
+ bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

IN SACRED MANNER

SEATTLE



1 In sa - cred man - ner may we walk up -
2 In sa - cred man - ner may we see the
3 In sa - cred man - ner may we touch the
4 In sa - cred man - ner may we hear the



on the fair and lov - ing earth, in beau - ty move, in
lu - mi - nous and lov - ing stars, with won - der and with
sus - pir - ant and lov - ing green, give hon - or and give
pound - ing waves, the sear - ing fire, the rush - ing wind, the



beau - ty love the liv - ing round that brought us birth. We
awe be - hold their ev - er - new cre - a - tive pow'rs. The
grat - i - tude for shade, for bloom, for gift un - seen. The
sing - ing night, the for - est hymn, the lov - ing choir. The



stand on ho - ly ground. We stand on ho - ly ground.
heav - ens show us God. The heav - ens show us God.
trees shall shout for joy. The trees shall shout for joy.
morn - ing stars shall sing. The morn - ing stars shall sing.

5 In sacred manner may we live
among the wise and loving ones,
sit humbly, as at sages' feet,
by four-legged, finned, and feathered ones.
The animals will teach.
The animals will teach.

6 In sacred manner may we walk
upon the fair and loving earth,
in beauty move, in beauty love
the living round that brought us birth.
We stand on holy ground.
We stand on holy ground.

THOUGHTS FROM OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FOR TODAY

“I think the problem with climate change is too many people know about it but don’t do anything about it, or just continue making it worse.”

“I think nature is beautiful, and I believe that we need to protect it, as we are not. Many people are putting money over the environment, particularly large companies, and we keep supporting them just because it is easy, even though it is wrong.”

“Climate change is a tough subject right now. People have dug us into a deep hole that’s going to be hard to get out of, because everything we do affects the climate. If we want to continue to try and progress society, the climate will become worse.” Thane Myers

“There are some worrying problems with the way we are treating our planet, but I feel I don’t have much of a say, so I feel kind of neutral.”

“It’s scary how the summers get so hot we can’t be outside.”

“I’m concerned about how our world will run out of EVERYTHING. Future generations won’t experience nature like we have, because technology will have taken over. We live in an amazing world, but we have changed it to fit OUR needs instead of working with the Earth. We altered the world; past generations have left it a mess for people to clean up in a small time.” Ella Bunger

“We live in an amazing world, especially in April, but global warming is really quite frightening. It’s scary because we have been brought into this world just to have to try and fix the world before it is too late, and that’s not easy. I am worried we won’t grow up in time to have the power to change what our forefathers have done.”

“I am scared my kids won’t see some of the cool nature I have seen, like snow and cold winters.”

“Climate change is a real thing going on right now. People know it could end the world, but most people don’t do anything about it.”

“I’m concerned about the natural damage the war in the Ukraine is causing. As well as the burning forests and the bombs destroying people’s homes, and the people having to flee their homes.”

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

PRELUDE AND FUGUE IN A MAJOR

WILLIAM SELBY

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Ellen Williams - *preaching/presiding*

Grant Salmon - *assisting minister*

August Anderson, Sam Archer, Harper Badeusz, Hope Badeusz,
Ella Bunger, Jax Bunger, Henry Chuter, Charlie Crouch, John Crouch,

Steve Kegg, Suzannah Martin, Archer Myers, Thane Myers,

Charlie Plougmann, Seth Salmon - *worship leaders*

Linda Zander - *prayer station*

Tim O'Brien - *Director of Music*

Austin Haller - *Organist & Associate Director of Music*

St. Martin's Choir;

Jenny Ohrstrom, June Julian, soprano

Katherine Altobello O'Brien, mezzo-soprano

Evan Brown, tenor

Gil Zilkha, Anthony Ashley, bass

Andrew Fuhrman, drums;

Darin Layne, guitar; Jay Clement, bass; James Burch, cello - *musicians*

Scot Salmon - *video*

Mo McGovern - *sound*

Richard Buerger, Garry Flandermeyer - *ushers*

Virginia Haas, Mamie Hickerson - *Welcome Center*

Bunny Oliver - *Fellowship Snacks*

Tom Blomquist, Nancy Schroeder - *Altar Guild*