

**Lenten Prayer Service**  
**March 22, 2017**  
**St. Martin UCC**

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

**His mercy endures for ever.**

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-9

**1** "Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. **2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in fatness. 3** Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. **6 "Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; 7** let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let us return to the LORD, that God may have mercy on us, and to our God, for we will be abundantly pardoned. **8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. 9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR LIGHT

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR LENT

*from Celtic Daily Prayer*

Come I this night to the Father,  
**come I this night to the Son,**  
come I to the Holy Spirit powerful:  
**come I this night to God.**  
Come I this night with Christ,  
**come I with the Spirit of kindness.**  
Come I to Thee, Jesus.  
**Jesus, shelter me. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE    “Within Our Darkest Night”    Taize

*Within our darkest night,  
You kindle the fire that never dies away,  
That never dies away*

WATER PRAYER

O GRACIOUS LIGHT    *Phos Hilaron*    Performed by Hannah Glavor

BLESSING    from *Celtic Daily Prayer*

Christ with me sleeping,  
Christ with me waking,  
Christ with me watching,  
each day and each night.

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*A fish cannot drown in water,  
A bird does not fall in air.  
In the fire of creation,  
God doesn't vanish:  
The fire brightens.  
Each creature God made  
must live in its own true nature;  
How could I resist my nature,  
That lives for oneness with God?*

**~Mechtild of Magdeburg**