

Evening Prayer Service
March 29, 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

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

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.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

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.

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

Calm us, O Lord, as You stilled the storm.

Still us, O Lord, keep us from harm.

Let all the tumult within us cease.

Enfold us, Lord, enfold me, in Your peace. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

“When the Night Becomes Dark”

Taize

When the night becomes dark,
Your love, O Lord, is a fire;
Your love, O Lord, is a fire.

HEALING PRAYER

**May the Spirit of the living God,
Flow into this beloved child,
Healing where there has been harm,
Strengthening where there is weakness,
And lifting the heart to reflect God’s glory.
Amen.**

O GRACIOUS LIGHT

Phos Hilaron

Performed by Paul Avgerinos

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

BLESSING

Each and every glimpse we witness of your love, Lord, is only a fleeting fragment of your eternal radiance Still, for those moments—for the brightness of dawn in the darkness of our lives, for music that makes our spirits dance, for the hallowed touch of those we love—we thank you, loving Father, because we know that all the goodness itself has its origin in you. In this Lenten season, help us to turn away from ourselves to see ever more clearly the outlines of your face in every moment of our lives. Forgive our foolish pride. Send us your grace so that we may see the dawn in our lives this Easter season. **Amen.**

~by James Schaap