



ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Palm Desert, California

stmargarets.org

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2020

Thank you for choosing to worship with St. Margaret's today. Your virtual presence blesses all those who join this worship. The Morning Prayer Service you will experience has deep roots in Christian history. This gives a sense of being surrounded by all the faithful through time. May you find food for your soul here as we celebrate that all things are possible with God!

Morning Prayer

Prelude Amazing grace
Fred Swann, Organist

Fred Swann, arr.

Opening Hymn

Hymn 304 vv. 1, 4, 5 I come with joy to meet my Lord
Nicole Vazquez Benvenuti, alto; John Wright, organist;

I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known:
we see, and praise him here.

Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise.

Greeting

Officiant: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Confession and Absolution:

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

Officiant: 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.**

Invitatory

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All Together: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Officiant: The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: Come let us adore him.

Venite

Psalm 95:1-7

Chanted by the Cantor

S 34

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 124

1 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

2 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;

5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

6 Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

The Second Lesson

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 525 vv. 1-3 The Church's one foundation
Nicole Vazquez Benvenuti, alto; John Wright, organist

Aurelia

The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed;
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

The Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

The Rev. Andrew Butler

Quartet Lord, for Thy tender mercy's sake

Richard Farrant

St. Margaret's Virtual Quartet

Ravae Reynolds, soprano; Teresa Voss, alto; Lindsay Karg, tenor; Craig Gahnz-Kuhar, bass

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake
lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past,
and give us grace to amend our sinful lives:
to decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in a perfect heart,
before thee now and evermore.
Amen.

Apostle's Creed

Officiant: Please join in proclaiming our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

People:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

The 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Suffrages *All join in the bold letter responses*

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collects and Prayers

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you. **Amen.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Great Love, thank you for living and loving in us and through us. May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all beings. Help us become a community that vulnerably shares each other's burdens and the weight of glory. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our world. Please add your petitions for the world and for those suffering who are close to you: [Pause] We pray for those who have died, grieving losses from Covid-19, from acts of violence, and from all the

perils of this life, including those we now name: [Pause] We offer these prayers trusting that you are seeing our needs beyond what we know to express. **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant offers a Blessing.

Postlude Trumpet Tune

Fred Swann, organist

Fred Swann

Worship Ministers

The Rev. Andrew Butler, *Preacher*

The Rev. Deborah Seles, *Officiant*

The Rev. Susan Green, *Gospeler*

Jim Duke, *Licensed Worship Leader*

Robin Nugent, *Licensed Worship Leader*

John Wright, *Organist and Director of Music*

Fred Swann, *Organist*

Craig Gahnz-Kuhar, *Cantor and Videographer*

Harold Patrick, Larry DeJarnett, *Lectors*

Dave and Diane Mueh, *voices of the people for Confession*

Judy Burton, Mary McKenzie, Cash Baxter and Betty Baxter, *voices of the people*

Emily Vogt, Debby Jansma and Chet Hecht, *Technical assistance*

Hymn texts used in this morning's worship are reprinted by permission of onelicense.net #714167-A. Hymn 304: I come with joy to meet my Lord; Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt.; Hymn 525: The Church's one foundation; Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)

Readings for Next Sunday, 8/30/20

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

The First Lesson Exodus 3:1-15

The Second Lesson Romans 12:9-21

The Holy Gospel Matthew 16:21-28

For a direct link to the readings for next week, click [here](#)

Message from Fr. Andrew

Dear Friends,

When this pandemic began, little did we know, that five months later we would still not be able to worship together in person. While some states and localities across our country have succeeded in bringing their infection rates and deaths down, we here in Riverside County simply aren't there yet. Some of you are reporting the opening of churches for in-person worship in other locations and have heard that we will be able to do the same at St. Margaret's in early September. At the present time, that is not the case. I want to assure you that we will resume in person services as soon as we are able to. I hear your frustration and longing for the bread and wine that sustains us but ask for your continued patience and prayers.

Faithfully,
Fr. Andrew+

Special Service on September 6!

On this day, we will Join the Diocesan-wide Worship Service led by our Bishop Susan Brown Snook. It's a time for us to come together in worship, and join with other Episcopalians throughout our diocese. Bishop Susan will preside and preach, recording from St. Paul's Cathedral. Music and prayers will be in English and Spanish. This will take the place of our regular service at STM and you will receive a link to the service and bulletin, as has been our practice.



Meditation Lab Coming in September!

The Meditation Lab will be offered online for three Thursdays, September 3, 10 & 17 from 11-12. This series will incorporate a 15 minute pre-meditation presentation on the range of pandemic-related changes in the brain, mood and memory along with simple ways we can continue to build our resilience for creatively adapting to ongoing change. Resilience is largely learned behaviors which help us to bounce back from life stressors and to grow from these challenging experiences. We will explore components of building

resilience with awareness and intentionality and then practice through our meditation enhancing our connection with others and our inner selves. All are welcome to the circle of the center. To participate, use this Zoom info: Join Zoom Meeting with this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91746182356?pwd=YTIMNStQUi9hcjhMNWk5Mkxidno1UT09> Or by using this login info:

Meeting ID: 917 4618 2356 Passcode: Meditate

Kathleen Dale, LMFT, Director of the Counseling Center (760) 861-5545



Sacred Ground Update:

More and more excitement is happening around our commitment to Sacred Ground—the ten-part film and book based curriculum that seeks to build a foundation that would strengthen our congregation’s capacity to ask: “What is the history of race in this place?” and to name present-day experiences around race and racial injustice. This series is being offered in small group dialogue circles via Zoom this fall. We now have thirty-some people signed up to participate and 11 facilitators undergoing an orientation to prepare themselves to lead the dialogue circles. We are excited about this and are waiting for more to join in. Go to the SME website and sign up...someone will contact you soon! Meanwhile, pick up the book called, “Waking up White,” from Debby Jansma in the church office. Sign up [here](#).



Children’s (and the Young-At-Heart!) Worship Resources

We have begun an additional offering for the young and the young-at-heart: Mother Deb reading a selection from *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name*. The link will be on the Children’s Resources on our website (www.stmargarets.org).

Parishioner Directory is Updated!

The Directory is complete! If you would like a pdf of it emailed to you, contact Debby: debbyj@stmargarets.org. Remember: we continue to update the Directory so be sure to email Debby with changes or new photos!

Additional On-Line Worship Opportunities for August

Join us weekly on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/St.MargaretsEpiscopalChurch>) for Morning or Evening Prayer on Wednesdays and Compline on Sunday evenings:

August 23 - Compline

August 26 - Morning Prayer

August 30 - Compline



Zoom Coaching Available

Zooming is as easy as 1,2,3! Learn to connect with virtual online Worship, Sunday Coffee Hour, Weekly Reflection groups, and meetings in general using Zoom on a computer, tablet, or smartphone! Please contact Andrew Trofka at (902) 619-6392 or by email andrewtrofka@gmail.com

Christian Formation Plans for Program Year

COVID won't get us down! We're planning a rich program year full of offerings to help your spiritual journey. To date ALL our offerings will be via Zoom. You only need a cell phone to connect with Zoom. Email Mother Deb (deborahs@stmargarets.org) for more information.

Stay tuned to THIS space for more details:

Scripture & Sermon Reflections:

- Mondays at 3 p.m. or Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Zoom groups to discuss where we've met God during the week (through daily reflections, sermons, scripture readings). Judy Burton, Chris Davidson & Rick Martin facilitate the Monday group. Art & Scripture Email: curated by Hovak Najarian. Each week receive an email from Hovak about one or two pieces of art that take their inspiration from the weekly lectionary. For info about how to get on this email list, ask Mother Deb (email above)

All About Church:

- Episcopal 101: An Introduction to the Episcopal Church for New and Seasoned Episcopalians Zoom Classes will begin in September. We'll use Jenifer Gamber's text: *Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church*. Some copies available in church office for purchase (\$20) or https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0765P82ZS/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1
- Episcopal 201: (Dates TBA) A Journey through *The Book of Common Prayer*. Text: *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices*, Scott Gunn & Melody Shobe: https://www.amazon.com/Walk-Love-Episcopal-Beliefs-Practices-ebook/dp/B079H3N7XG/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=walk+in+love+gunn&qid=1596748113&s=digital-text&sr=1-1

Christian Living & Social Justice:

- Sacred Ground: 10 session film and book exploration of our experience of race and diversity. Sessions begin in September. *Waking Up White* text, available for purchase in the office: \$20.00. Check with Debby on Mondays or Thursdays for purchase.



Neighbors-4-Neighbors UPDATE!

Miracles continue to happen every Tuesday at St. Margaret's through Neighbors 4 Neighbors. We desperately want to keep the doors open and the carts moving, knowing that many of our clients have depended on the jobs hardest hit during the pandemic closures. With so many facing hardship, the number served has generally **doubled** from what was typical before. And while many regular volunteers must stay away during sheltering, new ones have appeared. God continues to provide and make the seemingly impossible possible. *Thank you Chet Hecht and all our*

volunteers and contributors!

How can you help? Do you know someone healthy enough to safely volunteer? We have strict procedures in place to protect volunteers and clients. ***Can you make a special contribution to help with this vital Outreach?*** Please respond generously by sending an offering with N4N on the memo line. Or use the easyTithe link on the homepage of www.stmargarets.org and note your purpose.

Financial Report to Congregation

Greetings:

I would like to update the parish on St. Margaret's financial position through July 31, 2020.

We are living in uncertain times yet St. Margaret's parishioners remain steadfast in their support of this beloved church.

Despite the mandated shutdown of in-person worship, your pledges continue to come in as promised. In addition, we received government funding under the Paycheck Protection Program which has covered payroll and other costs of approximately \$147,000. We are carrying these PPP funds on our books as a loan which we expect to be forgiven and will then be recognized as income.

Donations to Neighbors4Neighbors are up significantly, but so are expenses as a result of tremendous need created by the pandemic. Increased giving will be required as our new clients' need for food continues.

At this point in the year, on July 31st, St. Margaret's shows operating revenue at approximately \$753,000 and expenses at approximately \$649,000 leaving a surplus of approximately \$104,000. Anticipated increased expenses for the rest of the year will eliminate this temporary surplus and should bring us to break even by December.

This is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to the financial commitment of our church family.

With faith in an unknowable future and a strong Stewardship Pledge Campaign for 2021, we hope to end the year at break even or slightly in the black and enter 2021 in a healthy fiscal position.

Our solid fiscal foundation is the result of your faithful giving coupled with thoughtful, persistent attention to our parish pocketbook. Please continue to support St. Margaret's as we begin the pastoral leadership of our new Rector, Fr. Andrew.

Guin DeJarnett, Treasurer

Your 2020 Vestry

All Vestry members serve as a liaison to ministries in some topical area. Vestry liaisons will:

- Work with staff to coordinate activities and communications;
- Answer your questions about how to get involved; and
- Bring proposals from ministry groups to the Vestry.

<u><i>Ministry Area</i></u>	<u><i>Vestry Liaison</i></u>
Parish Life (with Hospitality)	Gretchen Heuring (303) 579-1634 • Gretchen@elderthink.com
Worship & Music	Gary Gleason (612) 819-4279 • garygleason17@gmail.com
Building & Grounds	Jim Hatfield (760) 413-4372 • jimhatfield@dc.rr.com
Pastoral Care	Kate Reeves (760) 902-7538 • kater.1934@gmail.com
Adult Discipleship	Appointment Pending
Youth Discipleship	Kate Pierattoni (760) 447-0553 • kathleenpierattoni@mac.com
Inclusivity/Evangelism	Tenny Mickey (310) 941-0341 • tennymickey1@gmail.com
Stewardship	Chris Davidson (323) 646-3276 • cdavidson001@gmail.com
Finance	Guin DeJarnett (619) 265-1960 • guinkerstetter@gmail.com
Social Services	Tom Williams (760) 699-7184 • TOJO1998@Comcast.net
Advocacy	Ellie Millam (612) 716-3269 • emillam@work-wise.org
Communications	Ginger Bonnar (760) 501-1742 • gingerbonnar16@gmail.com
Senior Warden	For any other ideas or concerns, Jan Romerdahl (509)-990-5651 • janromerdahl@gmail.com