



Sunday 23rd December 2018 Advent 4

Shower, O heaven, from above,
and let the skies rain down
righteousness; let the earth open, and
bring forth salvation. *Isaiah 45.8*

Prayer of the day

We beseech you, Lord, pour your grace into our hearts; that, as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Micah 5.1-4 *Richard Hinsley*

1 Marshal your troops, O city of troops,
for a siege is laid against us. They will strike
Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod.

2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of
Judah, out of you will come for me one who
will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are
from of old, from ancient times. "

3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor gives
birth and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

4 He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his
God. And they will live securely, for then his
greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

Hebrews 10.5-10 *Sherryl Bremner*

5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world,
he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not
desire,

but a body you prepared for me;

6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.

7 Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about
me in the scroll--

I have come to do your will, O God.'

362 Tell out my soul

63 O little town of Bethlehem

57 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

" **8**First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings,
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did
not desire, nor were you pleased with
them" (although the law required them to
be made). **9**Then he said, "Here I am, I
have come to do your will." He sets aside
the first to establish the second. **10**And by
that will, we have been made holy through
the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ
once for all.

Luke 1.39-45 *Matt Heazlewood*

39At that time Mary got ready and hurried
to a town in the hill country of
Judea, **40**where she entered Zechariah's
home and greeted Elizabeth. **41**When
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby
leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was
filled with the Holy Spirit. **42**In a loud voice
she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the child you will
bear! **43**But why am I so favored, that the
mother of my Lord should come to
me? **44**As soon as the sound of your
greeting reached my ears, the baby in my
womb leaped for joy. **45**Blessed is she who
has believed that what the Lord has said to
her will be accomplished!"

23rd December 2018

Prayers

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thess 5:16-18

Government leaders

Give thanks for those who serve as Members of Parliament. Ask God to guide and strengthen them and renew their vision of serving their country.

For our Church and Community

Pray that new relationships and connections would be made with our church families and that they would thrive and flourish and feel welcome at St Martins during the Christmas season. Pray for our ministry team to focus on their mission, achieve their objectives. For all people involved in the upcoming Christmas events and services.

Pray for those in special need

Ask God to comfort, strengthen and deepen the trust of those who are sick and grieving. For residents and Killara Gardens and Lourdes Nursing Home. For the lonely or in special need at this time. For Fergus McCulla recovering from medical treatment, support for him and his family.

Victims of abuse

Pray for God's compassion upon all who have suffered the injustice, humiliation and pain of abuse- sexual, physical, emotional, spiritual and all other forms of sinful conduct. Pray that in the midst of their distressing circumstances, God would give them courage to speak. Pray for opportunities for these men, women and children to share their pain, reveal their struggles and expose the hurtful actions of

others. Pray for grace, sensitivity and wisdom to all who will minister to the victims and survivors of abuse. Pray that God would strengthen those who have been abused and their carers with the certainty of your love for them.

Advent Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness. In this holy season, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendour of your glory, enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son. Through prophets you teach us to hope for his reign of peace. Through the outpouring of his Spirit, you open our blindness to the glory of his presence. Strengthen us in our weakness. Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will and free our tongues to sing your praise. For to you all honour and blessing are due, now and for ever. **Amen**

St Martin's Mission Prayer

*Our heavenly Father, please bless St Martin's as we seek to make disciples of Christ, and see changing lives through grace, so that everyone reaches maturity in Christ. By your Spirit enable us to **connect** to Jesus and one another, **grow** in Christ-likeness, **serve** and meet the needs of others with the gifts you have given us, and **share** the love of Christ in our community and all the world. **Amen***

Action Items and Upcoming Events

- **Today at 6pm** – The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.
- **Monday 24 December 4pm** – Kids Christmas + Kindifarm.
- **Tuesday 25 December** – 8am Choral Communion; 9.30am Family Service.

Daily Bible Reading Plan

- ☐ Dec 23 Mic 1-3, Ps 143, Rev 2-3
- ☐ Dec 24 Mic 4-7, Ps 144, Rev 4-6
- ☐ Dec 25 Nah 1-3, Ps 145:1-13, Rev 7-9
- ☐ Dec 26 Hab 1-3, Ps 145:14-21, Rev 10-12
- ☐ Dec 27 Zeph 1-3, Hag 1-2, Ps 146, Rev 13-15
- ☐ Dec 28 Zech 1-5, Ps 147, Rev 16-17
- ☐ Dec 29 Zech 6-9, Ps 148, Rev 18-19
- ☐ Dec 30 Zech 10-14, Ps 149, Rev 20-21

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Rector Rev. Matthew Heazlewood

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Student Ministers Sarah Rootes, Yvonne Zheng

Sign up for daily

devotions <http://eepurl.com/c1QmND>

Set up your planned regular giving electronically to:
Electronic Giving: St Martin's Anglican Church BSB: 062 195 A/C: 1003 4848