



Low Mass with Hymns

June 26, 2022, 10:30 am

Pride Mass: A Celebration of God's Inclusive Love

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

Bridgewater, NJ

Please stand to sing

David Bjorlin

KINGSFOLD

Ralph Vaughan Williams

1. I met a stran-ger on the road who read a book a - lone,
2. I told the sto - ry of the Christ whose life de - nounced each wall,
3. For when we draw our bound-ary lines di - vi - ding out from in,

whose skin was dark and lan-guage strange, whose sta - tus was un - known.
whose love ex - pands our nar-rowed sights: the Lamb raised up for all.
then Christ stands on the o - ther side; ex - clu - sion is our sin.

And yet he read my sa - cred text, this pil - grim from a - broad,
And when I asked if he be - lieved, I saw my view was flawed:
Praise God for stran - gers on the road—the diff - 'rent and the odd—

and asked, "Where can I find a guide to lead me to this God?"
we both en - coun - tered grace that day, we both were led to God.
the pil - grim guides who take our hand and lead us back to God.

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Penitential Rite As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God's love, revealed in Word and Sacrament, let us call to mind our sins.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Please kneel. Silence)*
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.

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.*

Please stand

Glo - ry to God; Praise to the Son;

Glo - ry to God; Praise to the

Love to the Spi - rit; Three and yet One.

Son; Love to the Three and yet One.

Collect O God, you made us all in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all people may serve you in harmony; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen..*

A Reading from Isaiah

Please be seated.

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. Happy is the mortal who does this, the one who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it, and refrains from doing any evil. Do not let the foreigner joined to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from his people," and do not let the eunuch say, "I am just a dry tree."

For thus says the Lord: To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 *In te, Domine, speravi* (Please remain seated to say in unison)

In you, O God, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
Deliver me in your righteousness. Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.
Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
For the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.
My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me."

A Reading from Galatians

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious:

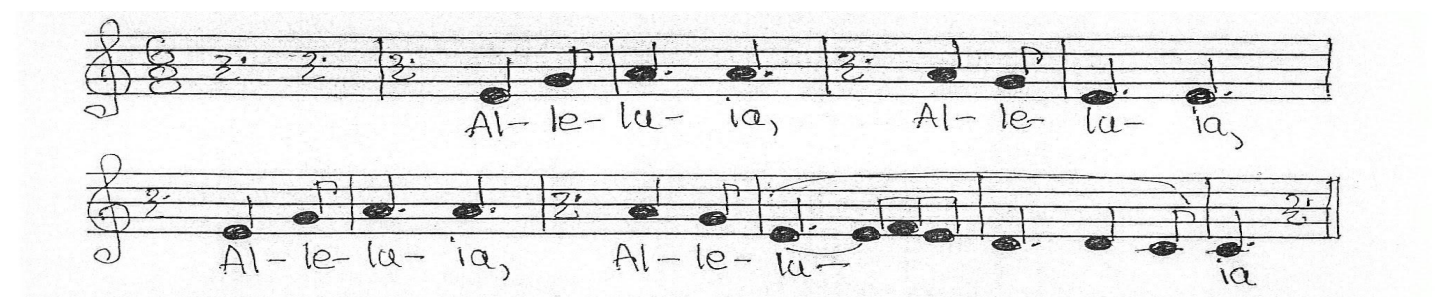
fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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

The Gospel Acclamation

Please stand as able The Alleluia is sung by the choir, then repeated by all.



V: God is love; let us love one another, as God has loved us. Alleluia is repeated

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

Please stand

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Remain standing, or kneel

Leader God-in-community, you created humankind in your image and blessed us with the capacity to love. We especially thank you for the gift of diverse sexualities and gender identities, whose identities reflect your multi-faceted likeness.

We pray for William, our diocesan bishop; and all those who minister in your name. Send your Spirit to lead your Church into your Way of Love. We repent of the ways the Church has harmed our LGBTQ+ siblings and we recommit to making the Church a place of refuge and blessing for all people. God-in-community, *Hear our prayer.*

We ask your guidance for all who bear the authority of government. Grant us discernment and courage as we dismantle systems of oppression and build a world rooted in justice and peace. God-in-community, *Hear our prayer.*

Bring healing and wholeness to those who experience oppression, trauma, dysphoria, or sickness. Fill us with the grace to receive all who look to you for their salvation. God-in-community, *Hear our prayer.*

Bless chosen and found families, kith and kin, that have become relationships of care and support for those who have been rejected from their families of origin. May they embody your compassionate grace which you freely give to all your beloved.

God-in-community, *Hear our prayer.*

We thank you for the witness of LGBT Elders and Allies who have gone before us, who dared to envision a world of radical inclusion. We remember all who have fought and died to advance equity for your LGBTQ+ children in the church, in this country, and around the world, and we pray for those who continue the work of justice.

God-in-community, *Hear our prayer.*

Celebrant O God of love, accept the prayers of your people. Teach us to fully and radically love all your children as their true and whole selves, and lead us with courage to continually advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, just as your Holy Spirit advocates for us. These prayers we offer in the name of Jesus, your beloved. Amen.

The Peace The peace of the Lord be always with you. *And also with you.*

The people of God share a sign of peace with one another.

Please be seated

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand, as able

Offertory Hymn

1. God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to
2. Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that
3. Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut
4. God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when

G/A D G/D

raise our song a - bove, and we dare to claim the
one day they be free; and we sing for gen - er -
short by fear and shame so a - fraid of who they
chil - dren far and wide can live their lives with

D G/D D

6

pro-mise of Your love, though the day may not yet
 a-tions yet to be, that they nev-er have a
 are and whom they love May the mess-age now be
 dig-ni-ty and pride As they grow in strength and

D/F# Asus A Bm

10

be here, we— trust it soon will be, when your
 rea-son to— doubt that they are blest. May they,
 ban-ished that Your love is for the few, may their
 sta-ture, may they join us hand in hand, as a-

D/A G D/F#

13

REFRAIN

chil-dren— will be free— O, may our
 in Your love, find rest
 faith in You re-new
 gainst all hate we stand

Em7 Asus A7 D G/D D

17 hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen wide. May there be

21 room e - nough for ev - 'ry-one in - side. For in

25 God there is a wel - come, in God we all be - long. May that

29 wel - come be our song

Chords: G, D/F#, G, D/F#, Em, D/F#, Asus, F#7/A#, Bm, D/A, G, D/F#, Em, Asus, A7, D, G/D, D

Priest: God our sustainer, receive the gifts we bring before you, and feed us continually with that bread which satisfies all hunger, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 God thanks and praise.*

It is truly right to praise you, Fountain of life and Source of all being, through Jesus Christ our Savior, through whom we are all accepted as members of your beloved community. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we lift our voices in one chorus of praise as we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of pow - er and 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 in the high - est.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The score is written in 3/4 time. It includes vocal staves and piano accompaniment. The piano part has two staves, with the upper staff labeled 'Manual I' and the lower staff labeled 'Manual II'. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and 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 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music features various musical notations including notes, rests, and accidentals.

Please continue standing or kneel as you are able.

Most Holy God, you loved us from before time, and made us in your image to show the beauty of your glory in the world. You called us your children and welcomed us into your family. But we would not share the love that had been given to us. We rejected those who were different from us, and excluded those we believed to be unworthy of your love.

Yet, you did not abandon us: You sent Jesus, your Eternal Word, born of the Holy Spirit and our sister Mary, to reveal our true humanity, to reconcile us to you and to one another, and to call us to return to the way of love. Jesus befriended outcasts and welcomed the stranger, and with a love stronger than death, embraced us all with your compassionate mercy and liberating grace.

On the night before Jesus suffered with us, he took bread, gave you thanks, and said, “this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper had ended, Jesus took a cup of wine. Again he gave you thanks and praise, and said, “this is my blood which is shed for you. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we offer you, O Merciful One, this bread and this cup as we proclaim the mystery of faith: *Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.*

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be for us the life giving body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, and grant that all who share in these holy mysteries may receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, that we may be strengthened as members of the body of Christ to work for justice and peace in the world.

And at the last day, gather us with the Most Blessed Mother of God, with St. Mary Magdalene and all the apostles, with Saints Sergius and Bacchus, Saints Felicity and Perpetua and all the holy martyrs, with St. Aelred of Rievaulx, Blessed Madre Juana de la Cruz and all your saints, into that place, where beholding the splendor of your radiance, we will dwell in the eternal bliss of your love.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O loving Creator, Mother and Father of us all, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 Fraction

Fraction Anthem Be known us, Lord Jesus Christ, in the breaking of the bread.

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are they who are called to his Supper.

Communion Hymn *God calls you good*

Tenderly, with confidence ♩ = 56-60

Piano

God calls you good, be - lov - ed child. You are a trea -
 God calls me good, be - lov - ed child. I am a treas -

Bm7 Csus C Bm7 Em11 Am7

with pedal

7

- sure deep - ly prized. And you can say to ev - 'ry doubt - ing
 - ure deep - ly prized. And I can say to ev - 'ry doubt - ing

Bm7 A2/C# F2

Pno.

12

voice: 'God calls you good, be - lov - ed child.'
 voice: God calls me good, be - lov - ed child.'

Em11 Bm7 Csus C Bm7 A2

Pno.

17

'God calls you good, be - lov - ed child.'
 God calls me good, be - lov - ed child.'

Bm7 Csus C Bm7 A2

Pno.

Post-Communion Prayer

All: Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Please stand, if able

Blessing

Live without fear: Your creator has made you holy, Has always protected you, And loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road And may God's blessing be with you always.

Dismissal

Closing Hymn *Impartial, Compassionate God* vv. 1,4,5

(Please stand)

1. Im - par - tial, com - pass - ion - ate God of all lives,
 2. Un - ho - ly, un - just - i - fied fear we in - cite,
 3. Cre - a - tor of beau - ty, we stand not in pride,
 4. Our hope is your free - dom for both great and small,
 5. All hon - or - we give you, O help us to see,

in Christ you have shown us your love ac - tual - ized,
 when we shun our neigh - bors yet cling to our rights,
 we do not as - sume you will stay on our side.
 to strive for per - fec - tion and know all means all.
 your chil - dren are wor - thy to claim vic - to - ry.

in - car - nate and weak in the arms of the poor,
 Your chil - dren still wan - der the streets left in pain,
 For yours is the sa - cred, un - tar - nished by sin,
 We chal - lenge and quest - ion each law with - out grace,
 And so let our ac - tions flow out of our praise,

de - stroy - ing all sys - tems that keep closed the door.
 we pass laws a - gainst them to prove our dis - dain.
 a re - fuge for out - casts that all may come in.
 af - firm - ing the im - age of Christ on each face.
 to seek trans - for - ma - tion, your Kin - dom to raise.

Serving Today

Crucifer: Br. Philip Muniz Reader: Anne Marie Verdiramo

Eucharistic Ministers: Yvonne Comeau

Cantor: Jane Maloney

Pianist: Kathy Shanklin Celebrant: Father Rob Laws+

We are honored to have you worshipping with us this morning. Please feel free to join us after Mass as our celebration continues outdoors with food and games. We would love to get to know you better. You are most welcome here!

Summer Mass Schedule: *One Weekend Mass from July 3- September 11, Sundays @10:00 am*

Confirmation, Reception and Renewal of Vows:

Information regarding Confirmation for Youth and Adults is in the Narthex (church entrance). The brochure for Adult Confirmation includes information for those who would like to join St. Martin's Episcopal Church who have already been confirmed in a church with apostolic succession. Please register by August 7. Please see Father Rob if you have any questions.

Image on the Cover:

The image on the cover is an icon of Sts. Serguis and Bacchus, who are the patron saints of same-sex married couples. While it would be incorrect for us to think of them as a married gay couple in the way that we know those kinds of loving relationships today, (given the vast cultural distance between understandings of same-sex behavior then and now, it's misguided to try to "discover" explicit affirmations of same-sex couples or LGBTQ people in the Bible or in church history), it is clear from their hagiographies that they shared a deep and intimate love. One of the most ancient icons of them presents them as a "married couple", being united by Christ.

Many of the saints honored in the Eucharistic prayer might have also identified as LGBT had they lived in modern times.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Susan Cacciatore, Len's former wife, has entered hospice.
- Raymond Okonsky, Denise's father.
- Audrey, Bill Valiant's wife
- Bill Valiant is also experiencing some health issues
- Fr. Rob's mother, Evelyn.
- Kathy Picazio asks for prayers for Doug Newton, his wife, Zhenya, and her adult daughter.
- Bonnie Whalen requested prayers for her 28 yr old grandson.
- Linda Virtue
- Chris Semanchik
- Jane Linn's, granddaughter-in-law, Rachael.
- Mary Irwin