



ST. ANDREW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Informal Service of Holy Communion  
March 24, 2019

## Greeting and Introduction to the Service

*Celebrant* This is the day that the Lord has made.

*People* **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Together* **Lord, direct our thoughts, teach us to pray, lift up our hearts to worship you in Spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Opening Song

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. Chris Rice

*Come, thou fount of every blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it  
Mount of Thy redeeming love*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer  
Here there by Thy great help I've come  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home  
Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wandering from the fold of God  
He, to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood*

*Oh, that day when freed from sinning  
I shall see Thy lovely face  
Clothed then in the blood washed linen  
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry  
Take my ransomed soul away  
Send Thine angels now to carry  
Me to realms of endless day*

*Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be  
Let that goodness like a fetter  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above*

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Together, let us pray.

*People* **Lord, surround us on every side with your grace and love, and inspire us to do good in the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## First Reading

First Lesson: Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further,

"I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians

oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God

of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

## Gospel Reading

Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:6-9

Jesus told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it

down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

## Reflection

*Please join in a reflective conversation about the Gospel reading of the day.*



## Gradual Song

*River to Pray*

traditional

*As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!*

*O sisters, let's go down,  
Let's go down, come on down*

*O sisters, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray*

*Additional verses in place of "Sisters":  
Brothers, Mothers, Fathers, Sinners...)*

## Prayers of the People

*After each bidding, please respond, Hear our prayer.*

### Passing of the Peace

*Celebrant* Let love be genuine. Never pay back evil for evil. As far as it lies with you, live at peace with everyone. May the peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

### Announcements

### Offertory Song

*Be Thou my Vision*

arr. Audrey Assad

*Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light  
Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one*

*Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart  
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art  
High King of Heaven, my victory won  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's  
Sun  
Heart of my own heart, whate'er befall  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all*

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Closing Song

*Oh, How Good It Is*

Keith and Kristyn Getty

*Oh how good it is  
When the family of God  
Dwells together in spirit  
In faith and unity.  
Where the bonds of peace,  
Of acceptance and love  
Are the fruit of His presence  
Here among us.*

### **Chorus**

*So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord  
And with one heart we'll live out His word  
Till the whole earth sees  
The Redeemer has come  
For He dwells in the presence of His people.*

*Oh how good it is  
On this journey we share  
To rejoice with the happy  
And weep with those who mourn.  
For the weak find strength  
The afflicted find grace  
When we offer the blessing  
Of belonging.*

**Chorus**

*Oh how good it is  
To embrace His command  
To prefer one another  
Forgive as He forgives.  
When we live as one  
We all share in the love  
Of the Son with the Father  
And the Spirit.*

**Chorus**

*Celebrant*    Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*Thanks to the musicians tonight, Wardie Mannix and Amanda Kern*



CELEBRATING 125 YEARS  
**ST. ANDREW'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
79 DENTON ROAD  
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 02482  
781.235.7310 • STANDREWSWELLESLEY.ORG