

## Martin United Methodist Church Service of Worship

*bold, bold italic are spoken/sung in unison*

December 6, 2020

11:00 a.m.

**Welcome**

Rev. Lara Franklin

**Prelude**

*Vieux Noel*

C. Franck

Rudimar Bonamigo

One: John the Baptist said, “Prepare the way.”

So family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?

**All: We silence the inner critic.**

**We let go of busy thoughts.**

**We make space for God to speak.**

One: How do we prepare our *hearts* for worship?

**All: We bless all emotions.**

**We feel what we feel.**

**We open ourselves up to be moved.**

One: How do we prepare our *bodies* for worship?

**All: We take in the scent, sight, and feel of this season.**

**We breathe in God’s mercy. We exhale God’s love.**

One: How do we prepare our *souls* for worship?

**All: We bring our full selves to this service.**

**We wear our hearts on our sleeves.**

**We trust that even now, God is here.**

One: Family of faith, what we practice in worship, we must live out in our daily lives. So prepare the way. Let us worship Holy God.

~*Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*~

**Hymn**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

## 240 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!"  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir-gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

## Affirmation of Faith

Caleb Bennetch

**All: We believe that a voice cried out in the wilderness,  
Saying, “Prepare the way of the Lord.”  
And so, we show up in church pews on cold, blustery days.  
We march toward justice.  
We roll up our sleeves.  
We plant trees for our children.  
We make art.  
We choose hope.  
We gather at the Table.  
We set an extra plate.  
We sing loudly, with joy.  
We share stories and wisdom.  
We celebrate children.  
We fall together.  
We rise together.  
We love together.**

**We do all these things because we believe that God loves us so much that God shows up here. So we prepare and prepare for that next beautiful day.**

**May it be so. Amen.**

~Affirmation of Faith written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)~

## Gloria Patri

Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-  
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

## The Lighting of the Candle of Peace

### Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Lara Franklin

### 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,  
forever. Amen.*

## Scripture Reading

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

Mark 1:1-8

Caleb Bennetch

Comfort, comfort my people!  
says your God.

Speak compassionately to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended,  
that her penalty has been paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins!

A voice is crying out:  
“Clear the Lord’s way in the desert!  
    Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!

Every valley will be raised up,  
    and every mountain and hill will be flattened.  
Uneven ground will become level,  
    and rough terrain a valley plain.

The Lord’s glory will appear,  
    and all humanity will see it together;  
the Lord’s mouth has commanded it.”

A voice was saying:  
    “Call out!”

And another said,  
    “What should I call out?”

All flesh is grass;  
    all its loyalty is like the flowers of the field.

The grass dries up  
    and the flower withers  
when the Lord’s breath blows on it.  
Surely the people are grass.

The grass dries up;  
the flower withers,  
but our God’s word will exist forever.

Go up on a high mountain,  
    messenger Zion!

Raise your voice and shout,  
    messenger Jerusalem!

Raise it; don't be afraid;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

Here is the Lord God  
coming with strength,  
with a triumphant arm  
bringing his reward with him  
and his payment before him.

Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock,  
he will gather lambs in his arms  
and lift them onto his lap.  
He will gently guide the nursing ewes.

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The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

*Look, I am sending my messenger before you.*

*He will prepare your way,  
a voice shouting in the wilderness:*

*"Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight."*

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## Offertory Prayer

Rev. Lara Franklin

You may make an offering at [www.martinmethodist.org/give](http://www.martinmethodist.org/give) or by mail  
Martin United Methodist Church, 2621 Bedford Road, Bedford, TX 76021

You may also now give via text to 844-976-2515.

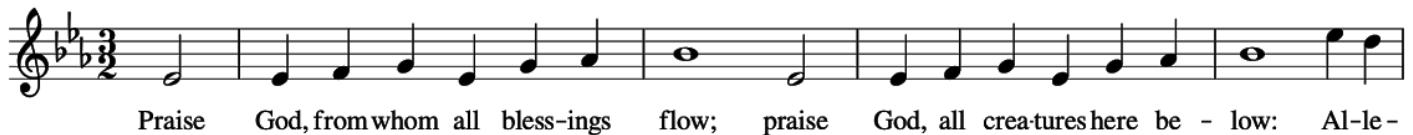
*Simply enter the amount you would like to give. The first time you give via text, you will be asked to complete a brief, one-time registration.*

## Offertory

*Jesus, What a Wonderful Child!*  
Caleb Bennetch and Min Kyung Kim

Arr. Larson

## Doxology



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## **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Rev. Lara Franklin

## **Prayer After Receiving**

Rev. Lara Franklin

**All: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may remain apart  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
and restrict ourselves for the benefit others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Invitation**

Rev. Lara Franklin

## **Hymn**

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

## 218 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,  
 3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



from an - gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heavenly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,  
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told



“Peace on the earth, good will to men,\* from heaven’s all-gracious King.”  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains, they bend on hov-ering wing,  
 look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift-ly on the wing.  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 O rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.



\*“all” may be substituted

**Benediction**

Rev. Lara Franklin

**Postlude**

*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

Aaron Williams

Min Kyung Kim