



Prayers for Pride on the Patio

5:30 pm

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Bridgewater, NJ
Christ Centered + Inclusive + Compassionate

All Stand if able

Officiant: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Officiant: Let us pray.

Loving God, we thank You, that woven throughout the tapestry of earth are the varied threads of human diversity. Created in Your image, we are of many colors and cultures, ages and classes, gender and sexual identities. Different and alike, we are Your beloved people. Free us, we pray, from fears of difference that divide and wound us. Move us to dismantle our attitudes and systems of prejudice. Renew our commitment to make this a household of faith for all people - that all who worship and minister here may know your grace and love.

As we come to the setting of the sun, we praise you for the Vesper Light, and we pray that your Light may ever shine within our hearts, enlightening the darkness of oppression and sin around us. May your Light enlighten the darkness of our hearts and grant us minds eager to learn, hearts open to love, and hands ready to free the bonds of the oppressed. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

A Reading from Wisdom *(Please be seated)*

For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made, for you would not have made anything if you had hated it.

How would anything have endured if you had not willed it?

Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved?

You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord, you who love the living.

For your immortal spirit is in all things.

Wisdom 11:24-26; 12:1

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

Canticle of God's Love *(Please stand)*

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; ♦

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, ♦

for God is love.

In this the love of God was revealed among us, ♦

that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us, ♦

and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, ♦

we ought also to love one another.

For if we love one another, God abides in us, ♦

and God's love will be perfected in us.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark *(Please be seated)*

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

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

In Christ Jesus we are all children of God through faith.
Having been baptized into Christ, we have been clothed with Christ.
There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female; for all of us are one in Christ Jesus.
Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Prayers (*Please stand*)

Officiant: Liberating God, you hear the cries of the oppressed.

People: Hear your people, and set us free.

Officiant: Let us pray.

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.*

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

*For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.*

V. Help us, O God our Savior;

R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

V. Look upon your gathered people;

R. Give to us the blessing of your peace.

V. Declare your glory among the nations;

R. And your wonders among all peoples.

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

R. Never forget the lives of your poor.

V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.

V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness;

R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Officiant: Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night, especially for those who live in constant danger because of their ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O God, remember today our LGBTQ siblings who were martyred in years past: those murdered by fanatics in the Middle Ages, those who perished in the Holocaust, and those struck down in our own city, in our own time. Remember also those who took their own lives, driven by despair by a world that hated them because of their love or gender. And in mercy remember those who lived lives of loneliness, repressing their true natures and refraining from sharing their love with one another. O God, remember the sacrifice of these martyrs, and with their intercessions, help us bring an end to hate and oppression of every kind. *Amen.*

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20,21