



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

Blue Christmas and Candle Lighting Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 4:00pm



*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2b)*

SERVICE NOTES: *There will be a candle-lighting ritual near the end of the service. If you are watching from home, we invite you to light your own candle, if you can do so safely. The candles represent our burdens and sorrows—all of the things that make Christmas a "blue" time for some of us. If you like, you can post the name of the person or event for which you are lighting a candle (whether virtually or not) in the Zoom chat box or Facebook Live comments section. This service is being recorded and we have to be careful not to share sensitive information online. Please use first names only when referring to other people. Thank you!*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Welcome to this Blue Christmas service—"blue" because for many of us, the holiday season is not "the most wonderful time of the year." Instead, it's a time when we feel sad or blue. The days grow shorter, the nights longer. The relentless pressures of the season weigh us down. Some of us struggle with the painful memories of previous holidays. Others face new and unwelcome challenges, especially given the context of these last two years, when so many of our patterns and expectations have been overturned, and jobs, homes, relationships, and even lives have been lost in a global pandemic.

This service will give us an opportunity to put words to the feelings that accompany hard times—the pain, loneliness, grief, sadness, and anxiety that fly in the face of the messages the popular culture sends us. We will offer those feelings to God by praying together, hearing God's word as revealed in Holy Scripture, singing, and lighting candles. May you find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Emmanuel—God with us—shines light into our darkness, stands with us in our sorrows, and reminds us that even the longest night does not last forever.

OPENING PRAYER

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

All Loving and gracious God, we gather to seek your peace and comfort. We know your love is stronger than death—strong enough to accept all of our feelings, fears, and longings, even those too deep for words. As the candles we light overcome the darkness, may Christ's light cast away the shadows of our hearts. Give us grace to accept your healing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN H 56 "O come, O come Emmanuel" (v. 1, 6) (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*)

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Let us read together Psalm 121.

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;*
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from God,*
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 God will not let your foot be moved;*
the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel*
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Holy One watches over you;*
and is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,*
nor the moon by night.
- 7 God shall preserve you from all evil;*
and is the one who shall keep you safe.
- 8 God shall watch over your going out and your coming in,*
from this time forth forevermore.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

HYMN H 112 "In the bleak midwinter" (v. 1, 2, 4) (*Cranham*)

REFLECTION

ANTHEM "In the Stillness" Arlen Clarke

CANDLE LIGHTING: A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE AND HEALING

Officiant We light four candles, one at a time, acknowledging our pain as we bring our wounds into the healing presence of Christ—the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Candle 1 We light the first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices, and the memories that bind them to us in this season.

(We pause while the first candle is lit.)

People **May God's eternal love surround them.**

(We hold a moment of silence.)

Candle 2 We light the second candle to redeem the pain of loss: the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of physical or mental health, and the loss of hopes and dreams. We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.

(We pause while the second candle is lit.)

People **Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future.**

(We hold a moment of silence.)

Candle 3 We light the third candle to remember ourselves this holiday season. We recall the past weeks, months, and for some of us, years of difficult times. We give thanks for all those who have stood with us in our struggles, for all the support that we have known.

(We pause while the third candle is lit.)

People **May we remember that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

(We hold a moment of silence.)

Candle 4 We light the fourth candle to remember our faith and the gift of hope that the Christmas story offers us. We remember that the God who shares our lives promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

(We pause while the fourth candle is lit.)

People **Let us remember the One who shows the Way, who brings the Truth, and who bears the Light.**

(We hold a moment of silence.)

ANTHEM “Echoing Carols” Carson P. Cooman

CLOSING PRAYER

Officiant Let us pray.

People Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Officiant God of hope and new birth, come into our hearts and minds to bring us comfort, consolation, and healing. Help us to reach out to one another as You reach out to us. May we walk from our own darkness to the light of your promised peace and new birth. May we find peace and hope in the love of your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DIMISSAL

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

HYMN H 111 “Silent night, holy night” (*Stille Nacht*)

POSTLUDE

Remember to safely extinguish any candles that you have lit at home during this service.

Music Reprinted and Streamed by Permission: One License A-715551; CCLI: 1839803. Text and Music Reprinted by Permission from RiteSeries © 2021 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

Psalm text © Order of Saint Helena. Used by permission.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Officiant: The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan

Deacon: The Ven. Margaret Grayden

Reflection: The Ven. Margaret Grayden

Music Ministers: Jeffrey Jubenville and Dr. Suzanne Jubenville

Readers: Alessa Johns, Chris Reynolds

Candle Lighters: Steve Reynolds, Carla Harris, Jessie Ann Owens, Deb Kimokeo

Ushers: Alice Day, Lynn Zender

Livestream Coordinator: Gabe Avila

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the land on which we are gathered. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally-recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan, pamela@churchofstmartin.org

Associate: The Rev. Ernest L. Lewis, ernie@churchofstmartin.org

Associate: The Rev. Deborah Hawkins, debbie@churchofstmartin.org

Deacon: The Ven. Margaret Grayden, margaret@churchofstmartin.org

Seminarian Intern: The Rev. Betsy McElroy, betsy@churchofstmartin.org

Music Ministers: Jeffrey and Dr. Suzanne Jubenville, jubenvilles@churchofstmartin.org

Church Operations Director: Gabe Avila, communications@churchofstmartin.org

Administrative Assistant: Janet Lane, info@churchofstmartin.org

Treasurer: Julie Knudsen, treasurer@churchofstmartin.org

*The Episcopal Church of St. Martin • 640 Hawthorn Lane • Davis, California • 95616
(530) 756-0444 • info@churchofstmartin.org • www.churchofstmartin.org*



**STATEMENT OF
COMMITMENT AND ACTION**



WEBSITE LINK



**TITHELY: GIVE
WITH A CLICK**

*Our church services may involve photography and/or video recordings which may contain your likeness. By attending, you consent to the photography, recording, distribution, or any other lawful use of the materials and waive any and all rights you may have in connection with such materials. Any such images and recordings will be the property of The Episcopal Church of St. Martin (the “Church”) and may be used by the Church or its agents for further distribution or marketing on its website, streamed to those off-site, or in printed materials to share our programs and activities. You also hereby release the Church and its leadership, staff, or agents from any liability that may arise from the use of such materials. Your consent, waiver, and release shall extend to any individual who is under your care, guardianship, or agency. **If you do not consent to being photographed or videotaped during this service, please sit in the back five rows on either side***

Community Resources for Hard Times

Important: If your need is immediate and someone is in danger of harming themselves or others, please call 911. In addition, there is now a nationwide crisis hotline number: 988.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, as well as prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones

Citizens Who Care

Provides social support services for Yolo County adults and their family caregivers.

(530) 758-3704; <https://yolocares.org/>

Davis Community Meals and Housing

Provides Resource Center with referrals to local food and clothing closets, emergency shelter, transitional housing programs, and meals.

(530) 753-9204; daviscommunitymeals.org

Empower Yolo

Provides information and support for those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and child abuse.

(530) 661-6336; Crisis Line: (530) 662-1133; www.empoweryolo.org

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-YOLO)

Provides information and support for those living with mental illness and their loved ones.

(530) 756-8181; www.namiyolo.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (24/7 365 days/year)

1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255); www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services of Yolo County

Provides crisis prevention and intervention, education, and community outreach services to residents of Yolo County. 24/7 Crisis Line: 1-888-233-0228; <http://www.suicidepreventionyolocounty.org>

The Friendship Line (24/7 365 days/year)

Provides telephone support, reassurance, crisis intervention, information and referrals to at-risk seniors (age 60 or older), their family members, and their advocates.

1-800-971-0016; <https://www.yolohealthyaging.org/mental-health-services>

Yolo County Department of Health & Human Services

24-Hour CRISIS and ACCESS toll free line: (888) 965-6647; <https://www.yolocounty.org/government/general-government-departments/health-human-services>

Yolo Hospice

Provides no-cost grief education and support to community members.

(530) 758-5566; www.yolohospice.org

Hymnal 56 "O come, O come Emmanuel" (v. 1, 6) (*Plainsong, Mode 1*) (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*)



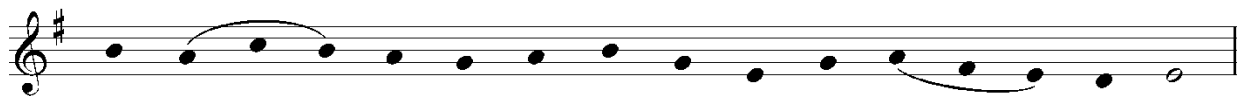
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Hymnal 112 "In the bleak midwinter" (v. 1, 2, 4) (Cranham)

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim thron - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Hymnal 111 "Silent night, holy night" (*Stille Nacht*)

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Announcements about Upcoming Programs and Events

For the full announcements, see our website www.churchofstmartin.org

Happening Soon!

Greening of the Church, Saturday, December 17 at 1:00pm

Join us as we put up lights, wreaths, garlands, candles and other festive decorations in the church for Christmas. We have all the supplies that are needed. Many hands make light work.

Advent Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 18 at 4:00pm

An Advent service with our sanctuary choir, featuring music sung in Spanish, Quechua, Nahuatl, and Mono Paiute. In person and online.

Las Posadas, Sunday, December 18 at 5:00pm

A traditional Latin American service commemorating the journey Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth to Bethlehem looking for shelter and a place for Jesus to be born. We will walk around the church grounds going door-to-door and end with a celebration and caroling in the Parish Hall. In person only.

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

3:00pm Children's Service: A brief interactive service for families with young children (or, yes, those who are young at heart!). In person only.

7:00pm and 10:00pm: Festive Choral Eucharist—a traditional service featuring Communion, a sermon, a full choir, candles, and Christmas carols.

In person and online.

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 10:00am

Contemporary Eucharist with Christmas Carols. Only one service this day. In person only.

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2023 at 8:00am and 10:00am

We will have our two Sunday services with coffee hour following. 8:00am in person only. 10:00am in person and online.

Programs for Children and Families

Las Posadas, Sunday, December 18 at 5:00pm

A traditional Latin American service commemorating the journey Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth to Bethlehem looking for shelter and a place for Jesus to be born. We will walk around the church grounds going door-to-door and end with a celebration and caroling in the Parish Hall. In person only.

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

3:00pm Children's Service: A brief interactive service for families with young children (or, yes, those who are young at heart!). In person only.

Our Nursery Is Open on Sunday Mornings

We are excited to invite parents to bring infants through age 5 to our fully-equipped nursery (Classroom 2) on Sundays between 9:30am and 11:30am. Our nursery care staff will welcome you and answer any questions you may have. If you'd like to come take a look at the nursery anytime, just let us know and we'd be happy to show it to you. Feel free also to talk to Rev. Pamela if you have questions about the nursery—and don't worry, children of all ages are always welcome in church, too!

Our Sunday School Program for Children (Grades K-6)

Beginning in January, we will hold **Godly Play three times a month—the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays—during the 10:00am service**, with the first Sunday of the month designated as a “First Sunday” intergenerational service. Sunday, January 8 will be the first family service of the year and we’ll start up Godly Play again on **January 15**. if you haven’t yet joined us in Godly Play this year, we would love to see you. Please contact the Church Office (info@churchofstmartin.org) or Sheri Reynolds with questions.

Special Program Offerings in 2023

Sacred Ground Circle New Start Date, January 8

Sacred Ground is a discussion series on race, grounded in faith and developed by the Episcopal Church. Small groups use films and readings to walk through chapters of America’s history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The Rev. Ernie Lewis and Carole Hom will co-facilitate a new Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle. We will meet in a hybrid format at St. Martin's on Sunday afternoons, starting on 8 January, with meetings approximately every two weeks (with a break around Easter) until the last session in June. Interested? Contact Ernie Lewis or Carole Hom by 23 December, or email the church office at info@churchofstmartin.org.

Save the Dates for “Revive,” February 24 - 25 and throughout Lent 2023!

“Revive,” a small-group program to help individuals grow in confidence as spiritual leaders, have the chance to be re-energized with new ideas, and learn about yourself and the God we serve, was rescheduled from Fall and will be offered starting late February. The program begins with a retreat on February 24 - 25, which will be held either at St. Martin’s or nearby (no long drives or expensive overnight accommodations necessary!). After the retreat, the program meets on Wednesday evenings for six consecutive weeks. We ask for people to commit to all six weeks, at the end of which you will have a chance to discern whether or not to continue with another six-week module. For now, we’d just like you to know about the dates and format. We’ll provide sign-up information soon. If you have questions, please reach out to Rev. Pamela. She’d love to talk with you about it!

Staying Connected with Each Other

Rector’s Office Hours - Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:00pm

Rev. Pamela holds office hours most weeks on Wednesday, 4:00 - 5:00 pm in the church library. **Her next office hours will be on Wednesday, December 14**. If you would like to meet with Pamela at a different time, just email her or contact the church office (info@churchofstmartin.org) to set something up.

Parish Prayer List Requests

Do you have a prayer request? Please know that people you have placed on the Parish Prayer List are being prayed for. Please see the information on our website about how to make a prayer request (i.e., to have someone put on our written prayer list). You will also find other useful information, such as how long we keep people on the prayer list. [HERE](#) is the link (scroll down to the section that says “Do you have a prayer request?”).