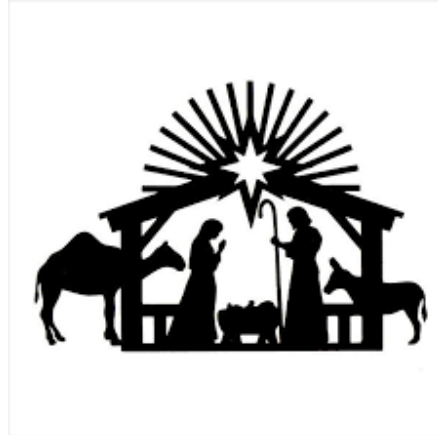




THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN



Saturday, December 24, 2022 – Christmas Eve Service for Children and Families at 3:00pm

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN H87 “Hark the herald angels sing” (Mendelssohn) Verses 1 & 2

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray. Almighty God, today we celebrate the birthday of your son Jesus, the day he came into this world as a human being, just like us. Grant that we, who have become your children by adoption and grace, may become closer and closer to Jesus every day, in our hearts and in our lives. Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

We will need volunteers to bring forward different parts of the Nativity scene during the story. We will try to make sure that everyone gets a turn, so please be patient while we sort things out!

Narrator:

This night is like no other night. It is a time to dream and sing our way to Bethlehem. The little town that we seek is in the hill country some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years the houses have huddled there on the hilltop like a family breaking bread. Bethlehem means “house of bread.” All is still and quiet.

As night gathers, the last two travelers come slowly up the road with their donkey. There is a young woman about to be a mother. She is walking with her husband. They are Joseph and Mary from Nazareth. They have walked for 6 days to come to this place where David the King was born so long ago. They have come, like so many others, because the Roman emperor wants to count each one, so that he can take their money in tax.

But it is late, and Mary is weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room in the inn. They decide to sleep with the animals.

Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath. Suddenly from the stable comes the cry of a newborn child. Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the feed box filled with straw.

In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their shadowy sheep. All at once the dark is lost in light, and in the midst of the light is something even brighter, the faces of angels. The fearful shepherds then hear singing in the sky, and a voice says,

“Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the City of David a savior is born. He is Christ the Lord.”

Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and singing:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all people everywhere.”

The shepherds run with joy across the fields to the barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family and creep forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find Nativity itself in the center of all that love.

Three camels plod up the road to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian desert, perhaps as far as the Caspian Sea. The camels carry the kings, the wise ones, the Magi. They are following the wild star, the destiny they had never seen before. They are following it wherever it goes, to find the King its shining shows them.

The Magi’s journey ends in a new kind of King. Their restlessness rests at last. They fall on their knees and give him bright gold, sweet smelling frankincense, and bitter myrrh, brought so far with so much love.

So now we are here, too, following the star to find God-with-us. We come as people have come all through the ages, to bring our gifts of faith and love to this Child, God’s gift to us.

(The story is adapted from Godly Play, Volume 3, by Jerome Berryman.)

The story concludes with a hymn: H109 “The first Nowell” (*The First Nowell*) Verses 1-3

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

English Carol, 18th cent.

THE PEACE

Please stand, as you are able.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord - remembering to maintain appropriate physical distance!

OFFERTORY HYMN H 99 “Go, tell it on the mountain” (*Go Tell it on the Mountain*)

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior’s birth.

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the announcements on the last page of the bulletin. Feel free to take this bulletin home with you. In addition, an extended announcement sheet is on our website. If you do not receive an email from us with current news and events, please reach out to info@churchofstmartin.org so we can be in touch.

OFFERTORY NOTES

We're not passing the collection plate at this service, but there is a basket for your donations near the small baptismal font. Online giving is also available; just look for the blue "give" button on our website or using the QR code near the back of this bulletin—or contact the office for more information. We are very grateful to those who have pledged and who give regularly, as well as for all plate offerings. This year, our Christmas plate offering will be given to Yolo Crisis Nursery, an organization that provides voluntary and free childcare for ages birth through five years, along with wraparound services for families in crisis.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing, as you are able.

Presider The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Presider continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with blessed Martin and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honor and glory is yours,
Almighty God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Presider

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread or host, saying

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Presider says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

ABOUT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at God's table, children included. Gluten-free Communion hosts are available; please ask.

Wine is being served via intinction only; the priest will dip your host into the chalice of wine and then offer it to you. If you would prefer to receive bread only, you may simply say so. The customary response upon receiving Communion is "Amen." Crossing your arms over your chest indicates that you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *Please stand as you are able.*

The Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

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 Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things on earth and things in heaven, fill you with joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN H100 “Joy to the World” (Antioch) Verses 1 & 2

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

let earth receive her King;

let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.

And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;

let us our songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,

repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat, the sounding joy!

Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Presider: The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan

Deacon: The Ven. Margaret Grayden

Organist: Oliver Steissberg

Greeter: Helen Campbell

Flowers: Carole Hom

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.

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Given in loving memory of

Emma, *by Sandy Granett*

Linda Renner, *by Joan and Jim Jordan*

Good friends Sergio Gonzalez and Stuart Spafford, *by Janet Lane and Bob Holm*

Sean Duffey, *by Anne Duffey*

Frank and Ernest Clifton, brothers of Gail Cooluris, *by Gail Cooluris*

Our parents, Emlyn and Sara, *by Michael and Sheila Lewis*

Our mothers, Joyce Dunkley and Edith McHardy, *by Diane and Charlie Bamforth*

Barbara Lee Bondonno, Lee and Leona Bondonno, and Lee and Patricia Quaas, *by Thad and Marianne Quaas*

Sabrina Gonsalves and John Riggins, Peggy and Art Eichorn, and Mark Bachman *by Kim Eichorn*

Given in thanksgiving for

Our mothers, *by Nancy and Jim Anderson*

The ministry of the Rt. Rev. George N. Hunt, *by Carole Hom and Neil Willits*

Wonderfully caring family and friends, *by Jerry Hulbert*

My children and grandchildren, *by Helen Campbell*

For family and friends, *by Dennis and Marianne Wilcox*

Our daughters, Annabel and Kathleen, *by John and Pamela Dolan*

The life and work of my parents, the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Cary & Edith Cary, the life and friendship of my sister, Dee Cary, the love and strength of my son, daughter and grandson, Andrew, Lindsay, and Jack Bruch, and everyone at St. Martin's, *by Gwyneth Bruch*

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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Administrative Assistant: Janet Lane, info@churchofstmartin.org

Treasurer: Julie Knudsen, treasurer@churchofstmartin.org

VESTRY (vestry@churchofstmartin.org)

Maria Acuna-Feldman (Jr. Warden), Diane Bamforth, Beth Capell, Colette Chabbott, Ben Guthrie, Kimo Kimokeo (Co-Senior Warden), Julie Knudsen, Ann Liu, David Martin, Chris Reynolds, Honna Steissberg, Neil Willits (Co-Senior Warden)

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STATEMENT OF
COMMITMENT AND ACTION



WEBSITE LINK



TITHELY: GIVE
WITH A CLICK

ABBREVIATED ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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

Christmas and New Year's Day Services

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 10:00am: We will have one service, a contemporary Eucharist with Christmas Carols followed by coffee hour. In person only.

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2023 at 8:00am and 10:00am: The 8:00am service will be in person only; the 10:00am service will be both in person and online with coffee hour following.

Christmas Offering Goes to Yolo Crisis Nursery

It is a tradition at St. Martin's that we give away all our "plate" donations on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This year, a committee of parishioners sorted through your nominations and, after careful consideration, chose Yolo Crisis Nursery to be the recipient of your generosity. Yolo Crisis Nursery is an organization that gives voluntary and free childcare for ages birth through five years, along with wraparound services for families in crisis. For more information: <https://yolocrisisnursery.org/>

Instructions on how to donate are in the bulletin on page 4, under Offertory Notes. If you put a check (or cash) in the basket, we will assume it is for Yolo Crisis Nursery unless there is a memo or note saying otherwise. If you use our online giving system, you can choose to give either to the General Fund, which sustains our mission and ministry throughout the year, or to the Christmas Offering. Thank you and God bless you, everyone!

For Children - Godly Play and First Sunday Services in the New Year

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. This month we're playing with the dates a little: **January 8 will be the first "first Sunday" service** of the year and we'll start up Godly Play again on **January 15**. If you have children but have not joined us in Godly Play, we would love to see you! **The Nursery will reopen on January 1.**

New Year Service Opportunity—Dinner for the Davis Winter Shelter, January 1 – 7

The downtown Davis winter shelter is open and housing 10 guests and two staff from November 27 – March 31. Organizations are providing dinner on a weekly rotating basis. St. Martin's will provide dinner every night for the week of January 1 – 7. **Would you be willing to sign up for one of these nights?** Dinner can be hot food or sandwiches—homemade or purchased. More details are in our extended announcements, or you can contact Janet Lane or the church office (info@churchofstmartin.org) for more information or to let us know you're ready to help!

A Huge Thank You!

Thanks to all who helped with the greening of the church for Christmas: Jerry Hulbert, Aris Sun, Carla Harris, John Dolan, Rev. Pamela, Carole Hom, Neil Willits, Bob Holm, Janet Lane. We also offer sincere thanks to Scout Troops #466 and #139 for donating three Christmas trees to the church. The church looks beautiful!

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

Rev. Pamela's next office hours will be on Wednesday, January 4 in the church library. To meet with her at a different time, just email her or contact the church office (info@churchofstmartin.org).

Upcoming holiday office closures include Monday, December 26 (in observance of Christmas) and Monday, January 2 (in observance of New Year's Day).

Our regular office hours are Monday – Friday, 9am – 12pm.