

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin
ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF December 10, 2023

This Week

Morning Prayer During Advent

On Wednesday mornings at 8:30am, Rev. Pamela is leading Morning Prayer in the narthex. Attending this 25-minute service is a wonderful way to start your day during this time of waiting and contemplation. Upcoming Morning Prayer dates include December 13th and 20th. If there is interest, Pamela hopes to extend this practice beyond Advent.

SING Community Walk and Hot Cocoa on Sunday, December 10, at 4pm

Take a break from the pre-Christmas stress with a neighborhood walk and some relaxed time with your parish family. We found out that Sycamore Park is currently closed, so **we will meet at St. Martin's and walk to Redwood Park and back**. This is an approximately one-mile walk round trip. At two or three points we will share thought-provoking poetry and Bible passages and then end up back at St. Martin's for a cup of cocoa and conversation about nature and spirituality in the winter months. The event will wrap up with (optional) Evening Prayer at 5:30; you'll be done in time for dinner or whatever errands, parties, or other events your night holds! If possible, let us know if you're coming so that we're sure not to start without you. Contact Rev. Pamela or the church office.

Advent Living Compass Class Continues

Helen Campbell is offering an Advent series using *Living Compass* materials on Tuesdays at 10:30am. The next two dates of the class are December 12 and December 19. The class meets on Zoom and lasts about an hour. The focus of this Advent is on *wonder*. We have booklets in the Narthex, or Helen can send you a PDF version. Get the Zoom link from Helen or from the church office info@churchofstmartin.org.

Music Notes for Sunday, December 10

Our offertory anthem for December 10 is a four-part setting of a sacred song, "Dearest Lord Jesu." Originally composed by J.S. Bach for solo voice and accompaniment, our version is a 1945 edition prepared by Charles Kennedy Scott, based on Bach's melody and figured bass line. The original 1676 text (by Christoph Werner) was translated by Beatrice E. Bulman; it expresses the longing of the soul for the Advent of Christ and an exhortation to be prepared for his coming. A portion of our service music is drawn from the St. James Advent Service by Richard Shephard, featuring the tune *Besaçon Carol* ("People, Look East").

Next Week

Greening of the Church, Sunday, December 17 after 10am Service

On Sunday, December 17, after the 10am service, please stay to help us decorate the church for Christmas. We'll be placing candles and hanging garlands, wreaths, and lights. Many hands make light work. And it is a perfect time to enjoy fellowship with fellow parishioners.

Blue Christmas Service, Sunday, December 17 at 4pm

On Sunday, December 17 at 4pm, we will be offering a Blue Christmas Service. This is a service of prayer, music, candle lighting, and contemplation and is especially designed for those who

might not be feeling the joy of this holiday season. Healing prayers will also be available for those who want them. Please join us for this service, which lasts about 45 minutes.

Upcoming Events

Rev. Mark Allen's Memorial Service on Livestream and Shown in St. Martin's Sanctuary

A memorial service for the Rev. Mark Allen, rector of St. Martin's from 2004 - 2016, will be held on Monday, December 18 at 2pm at Christ Church, Lake Oswego (in the Portland, Oregon area). The service will be livestreamed and will be available to you in two ways. You can use the link and watch it on your own, or you can come to St. Martin's and watch it as a group in the sanctuary. A reception and time to share memories of Mark will follow in the narthex. Click [HERE](#) for the link to Mark's service online. Mark's obituary appeared in *The Sacramento Bee* and the *Davis Enterprise*. Find it [HERE](#) in the *Davis Enterprise*.

Christmas Eve 3pm Service for Children and All Ages

Our 3pm service on Christmas Eve is designed to be especially friendly for families with young children, as well as for the young at heart. The service is short (no sermon!) and moves along at a brisk pace. There will still be opportunities to sing many of your favorite Christmas hymns and experience the story of the birth of Christ, told in a heartwarming and interactive manner. We would love to hear from you if you have a child who wants to participate in our low-stress pageant. Please email <mailto:info@churchofstmartin.org> to let us know the number of children and their ages. Older youth are welcome to sign up to help with narration.

St. Martin's Advent and Christmas Event Calendar

Sunday, December 17: Greening of the Church for Christmas after the 10am service

Sunday, December 17: Blue Christmas Service at 4pm

Sunday, December 24: 8am Advent Eucharist; 3pm Christmas Eucharist with Pageant; 7pm and 10pm Festive Choral Christmas Eucharists

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day Eucharist with Christmas Carols at 10am. One service

Sunday, December 31: Holy Eucharist at 10am. One service.

Other Announcements and Updates

Christmas Donations in Memory of or in Thanksgiving for Loved Ones

If you wish to make a donation in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one at Christmas, we would be honored to accept them. The flower guild currently has a surplus of money, so for this Christmas, your donations will go to the Memorials Fund, a fund that is specifically for money given in memory of loved ones. If you wish to donate, please write a check to the church, and put "Christmas Memorials and Thanksgivings" in the memo line. You may also donate by going to the GIVE button on our website and clicking on the drop-down menu "Christmas Memorials and Thanksgivings." Your remembrances and thanksgivings will be printed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. **We need them by December 20 at the latest.**

Nominate Yourself or Someone Else for Vestry

The Vestry is accepting nominations for the 2024 Vestry. Serving on Vestry gives you a role in ensuring that St. Martin's does its best to care for the parish, the larger church, and the community. The Vestry seeks a diverse slate to replace the four members whose terms are ending. "Diverse" in this context means a balance with respect to age, gender, and race/ethnicity,

as well as a mix of those new to St. Martin's and longtime parishioners. We also seek members with interest in different areas of ministry. **If you wish to nominate yourself or another parishioner**, please e-mail the church office (info@churchofstmartin.org) with your nomination. Include as much of the following information in your nomination as possible: a) the name of the nominee, b) the nominee's preferred e-mail and phone, and c) the ministries the nominee has been involved in (at St. Martin's or elsewhere). Note that if you are nominating someone other than yourself, you need to talk to them first and get their permission to nominate them so that we know they are willing to serve. We request your nominations **no later than January 1**. Questions? Speak to a Vestry member or send your questions to the church office.

From the Desk of Rev. Debbie

You won't be seeing me around St. Martin's quite as much as usual in the coming months. At the request of our Canon to the Ordinary, I will be at St. Luke's, Woodland on most Sundays while they continue their search for an Interim Priest. One Sunday a month I will return to St. Martin's to work with Godly Play. I am looking forward to being the bearer of prayers from one community of Christ to another while on "temporary loan." In Peace, Debbie+

New Sacred Ground Circle at St. Martin's

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith, created by The Episcopal Church. St. Martin's new Sacred Ground circle will start meeting on January 7, 2024, with biweekly in-person sessions on Sunday afternoons through mid-June. The 11-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. Small groups 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. *Sacred Ground* is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. For more information, talk to co-facilitators Carole Hom or Kimo Kimokeo. To sign up, contact the church office at info@churchofstmartin.org.

Nursery Open

Our nursery is open on Sundays from 9:30 - 11:30am for infants through age 5. Children of all ages are also always welcome in church too!

Volunteer Opportunities

St. Martin's Representatives at the DCMH Meals Needed

Would you like to do a little service for St. Martin's and for our larger community? St. Martin's has a representative at every DCMH meal (offered here at St. Martin's) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. If you are interested in serving once a month for an hour and a half at one of the meals, we need additional volunteers on Thursdays, 5 - 6:30pm and Saturdays, 11 - 12:30pm. Your role is mainly to see that all is going well and that all gets locked up properly at the end of the meal. If you are interested, contact Janet Lane or the church office.

Help Needed at Cold Weather Shelter on Christmas and New Year

Davis Community Meals and Housing and HEART of Davis would like to make Christmas and New Year's Days special for the guests of the Winter Shelter (**512 Fifth Street**). Please consider

signing up to bring food for lunch on those days. It can be as simple as pizza and salad. Sign up HERE: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CAEAA23A46-46690277-christmas>

Two volunteers are also needed per shift to help out on Christmas Day, Monday 12/25/2023 and New Years Day, Monday 1/1/2024. Must be over the age of 18. Responsibilities include making sure no one comes into the house who is not staying there; ensuring clients stay in and on the property; helping pass out food and drinks. DCMH staff will be on-call the entire time if volunteers have any questions! Shifts are two- to three-hours each. If you are interested, email volunteers@dcmah.org. Also, stay tuned as St. Martin's will be providing one week of dinners for the shelter in late January.

Meetings, Rector's Office Hours, and Church Office Hours

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Choir Practice: Thursday, December 14 at 7pm in the church

Vestry: Monday, January 8 at 7pm in the church library

Buildings and Grounds: Friday, January 12 at 4pm on Zoom

Social Justice and Outreach: Monday, January 22 at 5:15 on Zoom

Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 28 during 10am church service

Rev. Pamela's Office Hours

Rev. Pamela's holds office hours on Wednesday afternoon. **Her next office hours will be on Wednesday, December 13 from 4 – 5pm.** If you would like to see or talk with Pamela at a different time, contact the church office or Pamela directly (pamela@churchofstmartin.org).

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am to 12pm. Stop by in person or contact the office by calling 530-756-0444 or sending an email to info@churchofstmartin.org