

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin
ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF December 17, 2023

This Week

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

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

Blue Christmas Service, This Sunday, December 17 at 4pm

This 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.

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. Our last Advent Morning Prayer service is December 20. If there is interest, Pamela hopes to extend this practice beyond Advent.

Advent Living Compass Class Continues

Helen Campbell is offering an Advent series using *Living Compass* materials on Tuesdays at 10:30am. The last class session will be on December 19. The class meets on Zoom and lasts about an hour. Feel free to come, even if you have not attended the previous sessions. Get the Zoom link from Helen or from the church office info@churchofstmartin.org.

Music Notes for Sunday, December 17

On December 17, we will use two hymns from the Episcopal hymnal, "Voices Found," a collection composed by, about, or for women. The text to our Offertory anthem, "The Grain is Ripe," was written by Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931), a prolific hymn writer from New Zealand who has published three collections. The same spiritual impulses which guide Murray's activism on behalf of Amnesty International and in service to the Labor Party Research Unit of the New Zealand Parliament are expressed in her hymn texts, which tend toward women's concerns, justice, peace, creation, and unity. One of our Communion hymns, "My soul gives glory to my God," is a paraphrase of the Magnificat, written by Sister Miriam Therese Winter (b. Gloria Winter, 1938), a Medical Mission Sister who is Professor of Liturgy, Worship, Spirituality, and Feminist Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace. Sr. Miriam composed several folk-style hymns during the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, including "Joy is Like the Rain," made popular on the radio. "My soul gives glory to my God" is set to a very early 19th century tune attributed to Elkanah Dare but probably of folk origin. Although provided with keyboard accompaniment in "Voices Found," we have chosen a musical treatment that emphasizes the tune's similarity to certain medieval dance tunes.

Happening Soon

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 to 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 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. To donate, you can write a check to the church with "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.

Christmas Special Offering, Episcopal Relief & Development Hawai'i Emergency Response

The Vestry has designated Episcopal Relief & Development's Hawai'i Emergency Response Fund as the recipient organization for this year's Christmas Special Offering. Your gift will help provide critical relief to the many individuals and families impacted by the Maui wildfires. Local ERD volunteers are connecting with diocesan leaders and citizens to provide life-saving supplies and resources where they are needed most. They are also making the long-term investment this community needs to rebuild and heal in the wake of such devastation. Checks written to St.

Martin's Church with memo line "Christmas Offering - Hawaii" can be placed in the offering plates or mailed in. Alternatively, you can donate via St. Martin's website using the GIVE button. Select the drop-down menu item "Christmas Special Offering - Hawaii.". Questions? Contact Bob Polkinghorn, a Vestry member, or the church office.

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, please 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.

St. Martin's Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 28, during 10am Service

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 28 during the 10am service. Be there to help elect Vestry members and Diocesan Convention delegates. See the announcement above about how to nominate yourself or someone else for Vestry. If you wish to serve as one of our seven lay Diocesan Delegates, please let the church office know of your interest. **Annual meeting reports are due to the church office by January 12.** If you are a ministry leader or chair of a committee, you should write a report.

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 21, 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. *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. **Want to know more? Come to the information session on January 7 at 11:30am** or talk to co-facilitators Carole Hom or Kimo Kimokeo. To sign up for the class, contact the church office, 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 always welcome in church too!

Volunteer Opportunities

St. Martin's Birthday Card Team Seeking Additional Writers

Have you enjoyed receiving a birthday card from St. Martin's? Would you like to be part of the writing team? You would be provided with cards, postage stamps, and a list of names. You would write between 8 and 15 cards each month or every other month. If you'd like to help, please talk with Diane Bamforth or contact the church office. If you have not received a card and would like one, please reach out to the church office to update your birth date. We do not share the full birth date with the card writers, just the month.

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 21 at 7pm in the church

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

Worship Committee: Thursday, January 11 at 12:30pm 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 holds office hours on Wednesday afternoon. Her next office hours will be on Wednesday, December 20 from 4 – 5pm. The office will be closed the week after Christmas, so no more office hours until January! 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

The church office will be closed from December 25 - 29 and on January 1, 2024.

We will reopen with our regular hours, weekdays 9am - 12pm, on January 2.