



THE **EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
OF **ST. MARTIN**



Christmas Eve Service for Children and All Ages
Sunday, December 24 at 3:00pm

PRELUDE

Partita "Nun komm der Heiden Heiland"
II. Choral mit Variationen 1-4

Hugo Distler

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!**

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

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader This is the eve of Christmas, a time of longing for God's presence among us.

We light all four Advent candles.

Reader Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. The hope, peace, joy, and love of the entire world are fully realized in this tiny baby, sent to live among us as a human being and to walk with us on the paths of our lives.

We light the white Christ candle.

People **O Emmanuel, God with us, as you let your light shine before all, help us be a light to the world.**

Presider Beloved of God, as we celebrate the birth of the Holy Child, let the light of Christ so enter our hearts and minds, that with simple faith and true hope, we may at this time hasten to Bethlehem to see the baby lying in a manger. **Amen.**

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

Children will come forward bringing different parts of the Nativity scene during the story. We will try to make sure that everyone gets a turn, so please be patient as we sort this 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.

H 79 "O little town of Bethlehem" (St. Louis), Verse 1

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above they deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

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.

H101 Away in a Manger (*Cradle Song*), Verses 1 & 2

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

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.

H109 “The first Nowell” (*The First Nowell*) Verses 1, 2, & 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.**

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

**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.**

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

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 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, being sensitive to those who wish to maintain physical distance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the announcement insert, and feel free to take this bulletin home with you. If you do not currently receive an email from us with current news and events, please reach out to info@churchofstmartin.org.

OFFERTORY NOTES

The ushers will pass collection plates. Online giving is also available; just look for the blue "GIVE" button on our website or 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 Episcopal Relief and Development – Hawai'i Relief Fund.

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)

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

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

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.

The Presider continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself, yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Martin and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, *(first in Spanish, and then in English,)*

People and Presider

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.**

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.

**Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros perdonamos a los
que nos ofenden.**

**No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.**

**Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder,
y tuya es la gloria, ahora y por siempre.**

Amen.

**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.

About receiving Holy Communion

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

*Please come forward down the center aisle for Communion. **Choose the station on the left for intinction by the priest. Choose the station on the right to drink from the common cup.** The customary response upon receiving Communion is "Amen." Crossing your arms over your chest indicates you would like a blessing instead of Communion.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People

Loving God,

we give you thanks

for restoring us in your image

and nourishing us with spiritual food

in the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Now send us forth

a people forgiven, healed, renewed;

that we may proclaim your love to the world

and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. 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 H 100 “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 Partita “Nun komm der Heiden Heiland”
I. Toccata

Hugo Distler

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LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Presider: The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan

Assisting Priest: The Rev. Deborah Hawkins

Organist: Oliver Steissberg

Readers: Helen Campbell, Steve Reynolds

Crucifer: Janet Lane

Eucharistic Minister: Bob Holm

Christmas Candle Lighting: Michelle, Gabe, Gerry, and Josie Avila

Ushers: Jim Oltjen, Sharon Oltjen

Flowers: Carole Hom

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Gifts have been made to the Memorials Fund

In loving memory of

The Domingos and Stivers *by Ginny Stivers*

Ron Holm *by Janet Lane and Bob Holm*

Russ and Rachael Bruch, and Dee Cary *by Gwyneth Bruch*

Jerry Lawo, Guy Gregg, and Jim and Nancy Lang *by John and Pamela Dolan*

In thanksgiving for

Family and dear friends *by Jerry Hulbert*

Andrew, Lindsay and Jack Bruch; Jann Murray-Garcia and Jorge and Gabi Garcia; and Canela, Ian, Sarah, and new-born Moses Yohanan Roper *by Gwyneth Bruch*

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

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STATEMENT OF
COMMITMENT AND ACTION



WEBSITE LINK



TITHELY: GIVE
WITH A CLICK

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