



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

## Fourth Sunday of Advent: Holy Eucharist Rite I Sunday, December 24, 2023 at 8:00am

**ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING** *Please stand as you are able.*

*Reader* Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. The Church learned a long time ago that people need a way to get ready to come close to a mystery like the Incarnation, the mystery we call Christmas. So, the Church set aside four weeks as a season of preparation.

On the first Sunday of Advent we remembered the prophets, who pointed the way to Bethlehem. On the second Sunday we remembered the Holy Family, who invite us to walk with them on the road to new life. On the third Sunday of Advent, we remembered the shepherds and the joyful song of the angels.

Today, on the fourth Sunday of Advent, we remember the Magi, the wise men who followed a star all the way to Bethlehem. Even though they don't arrive until after Christmas, remembering the Magi now reminds us not to lose hope, no matter where we are on our journey.

*We light all four Advent candles.*

*All* **O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of the world, Savior of all peoples, come and dwell among us.**

*Presider* Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare our hearts and minds for the mystery of the Incarnation and the coming of our Savior, who was and is and is to come.

**Amen.**

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

### COLLECT FOR PURITY AND GREAT COMMANDMENTS *The Presider says*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

### TRISAGION

*Presider* Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,

*People* **Have mercy upon us.**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Let us pray. We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by the daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING** *Please be seated.*

**2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**CANTICLE**

Please join in reading Canticle 15.

**The Song of Mary Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55**

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.**

**He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

**He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

**The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**SECOND READING**

**Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! **Amen.**

**GOSPEL**     *Please stand, as you are able.*

**Luke 1:26-38**

*Gospeller*     The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People*        **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*Gospeller*     The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*        **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON**     *Silence is kept after the sermon.*

**THE NICENE CREED**     *Please stand, as you are able.*

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**      *The Leader and the People pray responsively.*  
*Adapted from prayers written by Lynne Mallonee Schlimm.*

*Deacon*      God of the watching, God of the waiting: Be present with us.

*Leader*      God of the watching, may the circle of the Advent wreath remind us of your infinite love, which has no beginning or end. We pray for the people of your church that you may strengthen us for the ministry you have set before us. For bishops, deacons, priests, and lay people, that all of us may heed your call on our lives and be committed to your service.  
*(We pause, making space for prayer to be said, either silently or aloud.)*

*People*      Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Leader*      God of the waiting, we pray for all in positions of authority in the church and in the world. We look forward to the day when the nations of the world walk in the light and your peace is experienced by all.  
*(We pause, making space for prayer to be said, either silently or aloud.)*

*People*      Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Leader*      God of the watching, we pray for the city of Davis and for all of Yolo County, that we may be a community of hope and light in this world.  
*(We pause, making space for prayer to be said, either silently or aloud.)*

*People*      Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Leader*      God of the waiting, we pray for the sick, the friendless, and the needy, that they may experience your healing presence. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list. *(The deacon will share prayer requests and then will invite the congregation to add their own prayers.)*

*People*      Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Leader*      God of time and eternity and the source of comfort for all who mourn; we pray for all who have died, especially those we hold in our hearts and name before you now.  
*(We pause, making space for prayer to be said, either silently or aloud.)*

*People*      Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Leader*      God of abundance and hope, we are challenged in our worship to set our hearts and minds on the here and now, and to remember and be thankful for all you have given us.  
*(We pause, making space for prayer to be said, either silently or aloud.)*

*People*      Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Presider*      Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom, and grant that we, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his advent in glorious majesty. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Deacon says*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God

*Presider and People*

**Most merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Presider stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE PEACE**      *Please stand, as you are able, as we greet one another in the Name of the Lord.*

*Presider*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*      **And with thy spirit.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS AND MILESTONES**      *All may join in praying.*

**Watch over your children O Lord, as their days increase: bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Offertory notes: The ushers will pass collection plates. You may also give online using 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 grateful to those who have pledged and who give regularly, as well as for all plate offerings.*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**      *Please stand, as you are able.*

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider*      Lift up your hearts.

*People*      **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Presider*      Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People*      **It is meet and right so to do.**

*The Presider continues*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, because thou didst send thy beloved son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

## SANCTUS

*Presider and People*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.**

**Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Please kneel or stand, as you are able. The Presider continues:*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again. For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Presider*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy Name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Presider and People*

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*Presider*

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 is 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.*

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*The Presider says,*

Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

### **BLESSING FOR ADVENT** *Presider*

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### **LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

Presider: The Rev. Ernie Lewis

Preacher: The Ven. Margaret Grayden

Deacon: The Ven. Margaret Grayden

Readers: Carla Harris, Bob Polkinghorn

Intercessor: Bob Polkinghorn

Eucharistic Minister: Bob Holm

Advent Wreath Lighting: Marianne Page and Tom Young

Usher: Jessie Ann Owens

Livestream Coordinator: Gabe Avila

Flowers: Carol 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.*

## NOTICE OF PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO RECORDING

*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.***

## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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## VESTRY ([vestry@churchofstmartin.org](mailto:vestry@churchofstmartin.org))

Anthony Amato (Clerk), Diane Bamforth, Beth Capell (Jr. Warden), Colette Chabbott, Ben Eustis-Guthrie, Kimo Kimokeo (Co-Sr. Warden), David Martin, Chris Reynolds, Honna Steissberg, Susan Stone, Neil Willits (Co-Sr. Warden), Tom Young.



STATEMENT OF  
COMMITMENT AND ACTION



WEBSITE LINK



TITHELY: GIVE  
WITH A CLICK

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