

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin
ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF November 24, 2024

This Week

Welcoming Guest Preacher

On Sunday, we welcome Randy Demary as our guest preacher. Randy is a hospice chaplain with Kaiser Permanente. He is board-certified with the Spiritual Care Association and holds an MDiv from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, where he focused on Christian social ethics. He enjoys learning about his Cajun heritage, roasting coffee, fishing, doing DIY projects, and playing nerdy board games with his family. Randy has been attending St. Martin's for almost four years with his wife, Lindsay, and their children, Emi and Adelle.

Music Notes for Sunday, November 24

On November 24, the Sanctuary Choir will sing Alice Parker's arrangement of Charles Wesley's hymn "Rejoice, the Lord is King," in honor of the Feast of Christ the King. Written in 1744, the text draws heavily on Scripture, especially Philippians 4:4 ("Rejoice in the Lord always") and other passages celebrating Christ's kingship and victory over sin and death. In her arrangement, Parker retained the hymn's usual tune, *Darwall's 148th*, but she transformed the stately character of the melody to a sprightly, cheerful tune with echoes of the madrigal. Alice Parker (b. December 16, 1925) is an influential American composer, conductor, and arranger, best known for her contributions to choral music. She is also an educator whose pedagogical approach emphasizes expressive, inclusive music-making. Hymn-writer Charles Wesley was one of the key founders of Methodism, originally a devotional, evangelical movement within the Church of England. He was known for drawing large crowds of working-class people to his outdoor sermons, especially in Wales and Cornwall. Charles Wesley and his brother Samuel were prolific hymn writers, and their movement and music influenced the direction of the Cornish and Welsh male-voice choir tradition.

Next Week

A Special Treat for Families! Las Posadas during 10am Service on December 1

At the First Sunday 10am service on December 1, we will celebrate Las Posadas. Las Posadas commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe place to have the baby Jesus. In place of the Liturgy of the Word, we'll have an interactive, music-filled procession, where parents and children (and others who wish to join in) can follow the Holy Family on their search for welcome and sanctuary. **Note that there will be no readings and no sermon at this service** (but the 8am Eucharist will follow the regular pattern of worship). After the service, stay for a festive coffee hour. If you can bring cookies for coffee hour, homemade or store-bought, please do.

The Weary World Rejoices: Group Study and Conversation on Sundays during Advent

From 11:30am to 12:30pm on **December 1, 8, 15, and 22**, we'll gather in Room 6/7 to discuss **The Weary World Rejoices: A Journey Towards the Promise of Christmas**. This resource is from acclaimed author and podcaster Kate Bowler, known for facing the hard realities of life with humor and faith. As Kate puts it, "Advent calls us to live in the tension between the 'already' and the 'not yet.' It's a season where we hold on to the fragile hope that everything

broken will be made whole, that every sorrow will find joy, and that every deep longing will be met with love. It's about sitting with the messiness of life while holding onto the promise of what's to come. This year, we invite you to embrace Advent and Christmas as they truly are—imperfect, beautiful, and real.” Join us for any or all the sessions during Advent as we explore the themes of truth, compassion, restoration, and justice. **No homework required**—just come as you are, when you can. All are welcome!

Happening Soon

A Voice in the Wilderness: A New Kind of Advent Lessons and Carols

On December 8 at 4pm, we will present a new kind of Advent Lessons and Carols, “A Voice in the Wilderness.” The service features traditional Advent scripture lessons paired with selections from the writings of John Muir, an early conservationist influential in the establishment of our National Park system. A deeply spiritual person, Muir’s writings reflect a sacred connection with the natural world, which he saw as both a place of learning about God (“nature’s Bible”) and a place of worship (“God’s first temples”). We will be joined by the Barefoot All-Stars Viol Collective (a viola da gamba consort) and by counter-tenor Andrew Hudson. The Sanctuary Choir will also present several settings of poems by e.e. cummings, Gaia Willis-Owen, and Wendell Berry, while the congregation will sing familiar Advent hymns and carols.

In these days of climate change and charged public discourse, it is good to remember that, whatever our diverse opinions, we literally stand upon a common ground. “A Voice in the Wilderness” reminds us of that. The service is not offered merely as an exploration of Advent through the lens of creation care, but as a way to see Creation itself—through the themes of Advent—as a direct expression of Emmanuel, “God is with us.”

Seeking Singers for Lessons and Carols

If you are a confident singer, quick learner, and enjoy both vocal jazz with close harmonies and Renaissance polyphony, you might enjoy taking part in our Lessons and Carols service on December 8 at 4pm (dress rehearsal December 5). Even if you can’t commit to joining the choir on a permanent basis, please feel free to join us at 7pm on Thursdays; we will begin our rehearsals with the Advent music for December 8, so you don’t have to stay for the whole time.

A Change in Communion Bread at 10am Services

Beginning on December 1, the first Sunday of Advent, we will be offering ONLY homemade gluten-free bread at the 10am service instead of the option of wheat wafers and gluten-free wafers. The two stations for Communion will remain the same—on the left, the gluten-free bread will be dipped in the wine and placed on your hand; on the right, you will receive the gluten-free bread and then go to drink from the chalice, if you wish. Parishioner Carla Harris and a very small number of others will be baking the bread, using gluten-free areas and utensils with no cross-contamination. If you have questions, please reach out to Rev. Pamela (pamela@churchofstmartin.org).

Other Important Updates

Walk in Love Stewardship Season: One more push to the finish line!

We have received 108 pledges to date. You can see our progress on posters at the front of the parish hall. A pledge, which is a commitment to donate at a later date, helps us greatly in

creating a realistic budget for next year. **If you haven't submitted your pledge, you can still do so.** Fill out a pledge card and put it in the offering plate. Or you can email us your pledge at stewardship@churchofstmartin.org. St. Martin's is supported almost entirely by the financial gifts of our parishioners and friends. We are very grateful for all pledges and for all of you who are considering pledging.

From the Rector: Stained-Glass Window Restoration and Timeline Change

Thank you for your patience while we are worshiping in the parish hall. There is light at the end of the tunnel, but unfortunately the tunnel is a bit longer than we had hoped it would be. We last reported we would be in the parish hall through December 1. Instead, Nzilani's last day working here will be Dec. 13. The following week, the scaffolding will be removed and the fire suppression system reactivated. Our first Sunday back in the church is now scheduled for December 22, the fourth Sunday of Advent.

The additional time needed is not because the initial estimate to clean and restore our ceiling stained-glass window was off the mark. After the first delay, caused by weather, things have been moving forward as planned. Nzilani Glass Conservation needs only three to four more days working in the church and in the upper cavity to complete the restoration. Most of the additional time needed is for an important final step, which wasn't in the original plan but we think is critical for the long term. Nzilani will be placing a super strong netting beneath the window. This netting is literally a safety net that would hold any glass pieces that might fall in the future, despite the repair work now being done. The netting is not only for us but also for future generations of this church. It is very fine and will barely be visible from the floor of the church.

Advent starts on December 1, the Sunday we had hoped to be back in our church. It is a shame that some of the special events we planned for December will either be rescheduled, such as the December 15 funeral service, or will take place in the parish hall instead of our beautiful sanctuary. Still, Advent is the season of waiting and anticipation, so we will be living our Advent in an especially profound way this year. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions.

Readers, Ushers, and Others Needed for December Services

We need readers, ushers and other liturgical ministers (ushers, Eucharistic ministers, acolytes) for our December services, including Lessons and Carols, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Sign up here: <https://stmartinsdavis.tiny.us/worshipsignup>

Practicing PEACE With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

You're invited to join a *Living Compass* Advent group to discuss scripture, prayers, and reflections around the theme of Peace. The Rev. Anne Dryden McKeever will lead the Zoom group Mondays from 12pm - 1:30pm on December 2, 9, 16, and 23. Please email the office (info@churchofstmartin.org) to be put in touch with Rev. Anne and to receive the Zoom link.

Christine Blanchard Thanksgiving Project - Thank You!

Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$6,836 for the Thanksgiving Project. The grocery store gift cards we purchase will be given to local organizations that serve families with school-age children, undocumented UC Davis students, and seniors. The Social Justice & Outreach Committee and the Vestry thank you for helping those in need in our local community.

Vestry News and Review - October 2024

To read the most recent Vestry News and Review written by Vestry member Diane Bamforth, please see <https://churchofstmartin.org/2024/11/21/nrvisioning/>.

Pre-Christmas Events at St. Luke's, Woodland

Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale: Saturday, December 14, 10am - 2pm

Holiday Organ Concert: Sunday, December 15, 2pm, \$25 at the door or in advance at <https://stlukeswoodland.org/events>

Every Person. Every Week. One Item of Food.

The Social Justice and Outreach non-perishable food item collection is one way you can help those in need. We deliver food to four locations on a weekly rotating basis: Dixon Family Services, The Belfry and CA House, STEAC, and the UC Davis Pantry. For The Belfry, please bring toiletries, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other such items. Our motto is *Every Person. Every Week. One Item of Food.* Thanks for your support!

Save the Dates! St. Martin's Advent and Christmas Events

Sunday, December 1: *First Sunday and Las Posadas* at 10am Service. Festive coffee hour afterwards. Bring cookies if you wish.

Sunday, December 8: *Advent Lessons and Carols* at 4pm with reception following.

Sunday, December 22: *Greening of the Church* for Christmas after the 10am service.

Sunday, December 22: *Blue Christmas* service at 4pm with reception following.

Tuesday, December 24: *Christmas Eve.* 3pm Christmas Eucharist with Pageant; 7pm and 10pm Festive Choral Christmas Eucharists.

Wednesday, December 25: *Christmas Day Eucharist* with Christmas Carols at 10am.

Sunday, December 29: *Holy Eucharist* at 10am; one service only.

Prayer Opportunities on Weekdays

Morning Prayer: Wednesdays, 8:30am in Room 8. Join Rev. Pamela and others for this 25-minute service.

Centering Prayer: Wednesdays, 5pm in Room 6/7. Join Kim Andrup and others for this 60-minute session.

Compline: Fridays, 8:30pm on Zoom. Join Deacon Margaret and others for this 20-minute service. Find the Zoom link on our website under "Worship."

Meetings and Office Hours

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Social Justice & Outreach: Monday, November 25 at 5:15pm on Zoom

Choir Practice: Thursday, December 5 at 7pm in the Dona Brandon Room (**No choir practice on Thanksgiving**)

Buildings & Grounds: Tuesday, December 17 at 4pm on Zoom

Vestry: Monday, December 23 at 7pm in the church library

Rector's Office Hours

Rev. Pamela holds office hours on Mondays. Her next office hours will be **Monday, November 25, from 3:00 to 4:30pm.** If you'd like to meet with Rev. Pamela at a different time, you can email her (pamela@churchofstmartin.org) or the office (info@churchofstmartin.org).

Prayer Request Submissions

If you would like to submit a prayer request, go to <https://tinyurl.com/StMsPrayerRequest> or contact the church office.

Church Office Closure

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28 – 29 for Thanksgiving. We will return to our regular hours (Monday - Friday 9am to 12pm) on Monday, December 2. Office Contact: 530-756-0444; info@churchofstmartin.org.