



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

ROOTED IN FAITH • GROWING IN HOPE • REACHING OUT IN LOVE

Fourth Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8:00am - Sunday, December 22, 2024

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 God's 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,

All **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 thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ 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 for the readings.*

Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from the book of Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Lector Please join in reading from Psalm 80.

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 4 O God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

GOSPEL *Please stand, as you are able.*

Luke 1:39-55

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

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

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

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON *Silence is kept after the sermon.*

THE 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,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

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,

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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. Help us to remember that you are with us always.

(We pause, making space for prayer to be said, either silently or aloud.)

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader God of the waiting, we pray for all in 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.)

Lord, in your mercy

People **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.)

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader God of the waiting, we pray for all the people of your church that you may strengthen them for the ministry that you have set before them. 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.)

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader God of the watching, 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. *(We pause, making space for prayer to be said, either silently or aloud.)*

Lord, in your mercy

People **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.)

Lord, in your mercy

People **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.)

Lord, in your mercy
People **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 confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(We pause in silence)*

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 thy Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION *The Presider 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.*

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, with sensitivity to those who wish to maintain physical distance.

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

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

OFFERTORY NOTES

The ushers pass collection plates. Online giving is also available; look for the blue “give” button on our website or the QR code near the back of this bulletin—or contact the church office. We are very 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, for the Eucharistic Prayer.*

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, through Jesus Christ our Lord; 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

FRACTION ANTHEM

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

AGNUS DEI *Presider and People*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

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.

INVITATION AND DISTRIBUTION

The ministers receive the Sacrament and then deliver it to the people.

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. Come forward down the center aisle for Communion. Choose the station on the left for intinction by the priest or 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 Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Presider: The Rev. Ernie Lewis
Preacher: The Ven. Margaret Grayden
Deacon: The Ven. Margaret Grayden
Advent Candles: Terry O’Flaherty, Sharon Mackey
Reader: Maria Acuna-Feldman
Intercessor: Carla Harris
Eucharistic Minister: Bob Polkinghorn
Ushers: Terry O’Flaherty, Sharon Mackey
Flowers: Susan Kauzlarich

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.

VESTRY (vestry@churchofstmartin.org)

Diane Bamforth, Beth Capell (Jr. Warden), Ben Eustis-Guthrie, Eric Jordan, Jim Jordan, Elise Keddie, Anthony Miller, Susan Stone, Neil Willits (Sr. Warden), Tom Young.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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STATEMENT OF
COMMITMENT AND ACTION



WEBSITE LINK



TITHELY: GIVE
WITH A CLICK

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