



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

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

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## Christmas Eve Service and Children's Pageant Tuesday, December 24 at 3:00pm

**SERVICE NOTES:** *We are glad you have joined us! The words to all the hymns can be found in this bulletin. We encourage you to sing and pray actively. If you have children with you who would like to participate in the pageant, it's not too late for them to go to the church office for a costume. Welcome! Merry Christmas! Bienvenidos! Feliz Navidad!*

**PRELUDE**                      A Selection of Carols

**OPENING HYMN**    H 87 "Hark the herald angels sing" (*Mendelssohn*) v. 1,2 **Please stand, as you are able.**

**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!**

## CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING

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

*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 *Please be seated.*

*Narrator 1*

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*), v. 1

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy 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.

**H 101** Away in a Manger (*Cradle Song*), v. 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.**

*Narrator 2*

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.

**H 109** “The first Nowell” (*The First Nowell*) v. 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. This is also your chance to take pictures of the pageant cast!*

**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](mailto: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.*

**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)*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**            (*Franconia*)            *Please stand, as you are able, and join in singing.*

**We give thee but thine own, / Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is thine alone, / A trust, O God, from thee.** —William Walsham Howe

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*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*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfectly human of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**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*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Presider and People*

**We remember Christ's death.**

**We proclaim Christ's resurrection.**

**We await Christ's coming in glory.**

*The Presider continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with blessed Martin and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for 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. All the Communion bread is gluten-free and vegan. 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.*

COMMUNION MUSIC     A Selection of Carols

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER     *Please stand, as you are able.*

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN H 100** “Joy to the World” (*Antioch*) v. 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** A Selection of Carols

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

Presider: The Very Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan

Assisting Priest: The Rev. Ernie Lewis

Organist: Chris Reynolds

Readers: Joy Humphrey, Carla Harris

Children’s Cross: Josie Avila

Crucifer: Janet Lane

Eucharistic Ministers: Janet Lane, Bob Holm

Christmas Candles: Michelle, Gabe, Gerry, and Josie Avila

Ushers: Kimo Kimokeo, Steve Reynolds

Pageant Coordinator: Sheri Reynolds

Flowers and Greens: Carole Hom and St. Martin’s Volunteers

**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.*

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## CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS

*This year, Christmas donations in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for loved ones go to the Altar Guild. The Altar Guild provides all the bread and wine for Communion as well as the linens, candles, candle oil, and silver you see on and around the altar at every service.*

### In loving memory of

Jim Anderson and David Shelton *by Nancy Anderson*

Ron Holm, Mary Holm, and Steve Holm *by Janet Lane and Bob Holm*

George and Charlotte Dugan and Harry Borchers *by Alice and Jim Borchers*

Maria De Los Angeles Barrera Diaz de Vazquez and Antonio Vazquez *by Aiden and Chris Chen-Malloy*

Jennifer Elizabeth Guy *by Brenda and James Guy*

Gail Gong *by Michael Hannon*

Sean Duffey and Emily Murdock *by Anne Duffey*

Barbara Lee Bondonno and Patricia and Leroy Quaas *by Thad and Marianne Quaas*

Emma Yayoi Granett *by Sandy Granett*

Walter A. (Walt) Woodard *by Judy Woodard*

Domingo and Mercedes Mastache, Charles and Sonia Mastache, and Veona Jacobs *by Marcia and Robert Jacobs*

Ruth and James Humphrey *by Joy Humphrey*

Evelyn and Harold Miller *by Tony Miller*

Our dear parents *by Diane and Charlie Bamforth*

Frank Snow, Michael Quinn, and Darrell Marshall *by Diane Snow*

Kathleen McCarthy *by Molly McCarthy*

Dale Hall *by Marianne and Dennis Wilcox*

### In thanksgiving for

Loving family and friends *by Jerry Hulbert*

Loving family, especially Annabel and Kathleen *by John and Pamela Dolan*

Our children and grandchildren *by Diane and Charlie Bamforth*

Family and friends *by Marianne and Dennis Wilcox*

## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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STATEMENT OF  
COMMITMENT AND ACTION



WEBSITE LINK



TITHELY: GIVE  
WITH A CLICK

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