



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF ST. MARTIN

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
A Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 4:00pm



*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2b)*

WELCOME: *Welcome to this time when we can, with others, acknowledge the “blue” feelings we may have in this season. For many who have lost a loved one, this is a time of sharp loneliness. For others, who have lost a relationship, health, a job, or had a financial setback, or who are simply worried about the many challenges facing the world today, it may be a time of pain, confusion, or fear. This is not a joyous season for everyone—and for many it is a time of conflicting emotions. All of what you bring with you this evening is welcome here.*

The church is partially dark as the service begins. Please stand, as you are able.

Officiant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Lights come on and candles are illuminated as we sing the following hymn together.

HYMN H 56 “O come, O come Emmanuel” verses 1,2 (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Officiant O God, be not far from us.

People **Come quickly to help us, O God.**

Officiant Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

People **Amen. Alleluia.**

OPENING PSALM

Psalm 141:1-3,8ab

Please join in reading from Psalm 141.

**O God, I call to you; come to me quickly; *
hear my voice when I cry to you.**

**Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, *
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**Set a watch before my mouth, O God,
and guard the door of my lips; *
let not my heart incline to any evil thing.**

**My eyes are turned to you, O God; *
in you I take refuge.**

FIRST READING *Please be seated for the readings.*

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

THE CANTICLE

Canticle 16 (Luke 1:68-79)

Please join in reading Canticle 16.

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.**

**You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

**To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

SECOND READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling
together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned
child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth
will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as
a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN H 56 "O come, O come Emmanuel" verses 3,4,5 (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*)

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THIRD READING

John 1:1-14 (*The Message*)

A reading from the Gospel of John.

The Word was first,
the Word present to God,
God present to the Word.
The Word was God,
in readiness for God from day one.
Everything was created through him;
nothing—not one thing!—
came into being without him.
What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.

The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BEAR THE LIGHT

Jan Richardson

Blessed are you
who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence

when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.
Blessed are you
in whom
the light lives,
in whom
the brightness blazes—
your heart
a chapel,
an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith,
in stubborn hope,
in love that illumines
every broken thing
it finds.

CANDLE LIGHTING AND LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Officiant We light four candles, one at a time, acknowledging our pain as we bring our wounds into the healing presence of Christ—the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

First Candle

Reader We light this candle to remember those persons who have been loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices.

(We hold a moment of silence for the lighting of the first candle.)

Reader We give thanks for the memory that binds them to us this season and always.

People **May God's eternal love surround them.**

Second Candle

Reader We light the second candle to redeem the pain of loss: the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of physical or mental health, and the loss of hopes and dreams.

(We hold a moment of silence for the lighting of the second candle.)

Reader We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we will receive the gift of peace.

People **Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future.**

Third Candle

Reader We light the third candle to offer ourselves compassion and love this season. We remember the poignancy of memories, the grief, the hurts, and the pain of reflecting on our own mortality.

(We hold a moment of silence for the lighting of the third candle.)

Reader We pause to reflect on our own resilience and to give thanks for those who have helped us on our journey.

People **May we remember that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

Fourth Candle

Reader We light the fourth candle to remember our faith and the gift of hope that the coming of Christ into the world can offer us. Even in our darkest moments, God is with us.

(We hold a moment of silence for the lighting of the fourth candle.)

Reader We remember that the God who shares our lives and our burdens, our joys and our sorrows, promises us a time when there will be no more pain and suffering, and when God will wipe away every tear.

People **Let us remember the One who shows the Way, who brings the Truth, and who bears the Light.**

Sometimes working through our feelings by putting them into words or finding a physical ritual that expresses them can be very comforting. At this time, we offer three options; you may choose all of them, one or two of them, or none. One option is to come forward to light a candle and say a silent prayer. Another option is to come to the altar rail for healing prayer and anointing. In addition, we have small lighted trees near the entrance to the church, with prayer tags and pens on a table nearby. You are invited to write a prayer or intention on the tag and tie it to one of the trees. This can also be done after the service. And of course, you are very welcome to stay in your pew to pray and sing!

BLESSING OF THE UNCTION *The Presider blesses the oil to be used for healing prayers*

O Lord, holy Father, giver of health and salvation: Send your Holy Spirit to sanctify this oil; that, as your holy apostles anointed many that were sick and healed them, so may those who in faith and repentance receive this holy unction be made whole; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMNS **H 66** “Come, thou long expected Jesus” (*Stuttgart*)

H 84 “Love came down at Christmas” (*Gartan*)

H 112 “In the bleak midwinter” (*Cranham*)

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CLOSING PRAYERS *Please stand, as you are able, for the final prayers.*

Officiant That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

All **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

All **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

All **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

All **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Leader That at the end we may depart this life in your faith and confidence,

All **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

All **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Collect of the Day

Officiant Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Peace

Officiant Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

A Collect for the Night

Officiant Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

A BLESSING FOR OPEN ARMS

Kate Bowler

Blessed are you with open arms
to welcome God this Advent,
willing to invite its promises
into the center of your longing.

Blessed are you,
even now in the waiting.
Open to receiving what is beautiful
though clothed in such precarity.

Blessed are you,
agreeing to stand still long enough
to let your eyes adjust to the darkness
until the starlight begins to appear,
the dawning of God's promises.

In that gentle light,
find a corner of your heart
where hope can stay protected.
A place from which we can
nurture a little gratitude,
a little compassion,
enough to go around.

Some for God and some for yourself.
And some for the next unsuspecting
soul that wanders into your light.

HYMN H 56 "O come, O come Emmanuel" verses 6,7,8 (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*)

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant May the God of hope fill us with joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Community Resources for Hard Times

Important: If your need is immediate and someone is in danger of harming themselves or others, please call 911.

The 988 Nationwide Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides 24 hour, 7 days a week, free and confidential support for people in distress, as well as prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

Yolo Cares *(an affiliate of the California Hospice Network)*

Provides no-cost grief education and support to community members. Provides respite care, palliative care, and hospice care. Provides social support services for Yolo County adults and their family caregivers.

(530) 758-5566; <https://yolocares.org/>

Davis Community Meals and Housing and Paul's Place

Provides Resource Center with referrals to local food and clothing closets, emergency shelter, transitional housing programs, and meals.

(530) 753-9204; <https://daviscommunitymeals.org>

Empower Yolo

Provides information and support for those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and child abuse. Provides resource centers for community services to improve the health, social, educational and economic outcomes of Yolo County residents.

(530) 661-6336; 24/7 Crisis Line: (530) 662-1133/916-371-1907; www.empoweryolo.org

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-YOLO)

Provides information and support for those living with mental illness and their loved ones.

(530) 756-8181; Yolo County Mental Health 24/7 Crisis Line, (888) 965-6647 www.namiyolo.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (24/7 365 days/year)

24/7 Crisis Line: 988; www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Suicide Prevention of Yolo County

Provides crisis prevention and intervention, education, and community outreach services to residents of Yolo County. Crisis Line 988; <http://www.suicidepreventionyolocounty.org>

Yolo County Department of Health & Human Services

24-Hour Crisis and Access Toll-free Line: (888) 965-6647; <https://www.yolocounty.org/government/general-government-departments/health-human-services>

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance

Promotes the wellbeing of older adults through education, collaboration, and advocacy. Offers a Phone Friends program that one needs to sign up for. (530) 776-5006; <https://www.yolohealthyaging.org/>

Hymnal 66 "Come, thou long expected Jesus" (*Stuttgart*)

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

Hymnal 84 "Love came down at Christmas" (*Gartan*)

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
 2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
 3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
 wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
 love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt. Music: *Gartan*, melody from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II*, 1902; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Hymnal 112 "In the bleak midwinter" (Cranham)

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim thron - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Officiant: The Very Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan

Organist: Jessie Ann Owens

Readers: Neil Willits, Carla Harris, The Rev. Ernie Lewis, The Rev. Deborah Hawkins

Candles: Gabe Avila, The Rev. Deborah Hawkins, The Rev. Ernie Lewis, The Very Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan

Usher: Janet Lane

Livestream Coordinator: Gabe Avila

Christmas at St. Martin's

Christmas Eve Service for Children and All Ages with Music, Eucharist, and Pageant
Wednesday, December 24 at 3pm; in-person and livestreamed (nursery open)

Christmas Eve Festive Eucharist with Choir
Wednesday, December 24 at 7pm and 10pm; in-person and livestreamed (nursery closed)

Christmas Day Contemporary Eucharist with Christmas Carols
Thursday, December 25 at 10am; in-person only (nursery closed)

First Sunday after Christmas Contemporary Eucharist with Christmas Carols
Sunday, December 28 at 10am; in-person and livestreamed; one service only. (nursery open)

Christmas Pageant: Calling All Sheep, Angels, and Shepherds! December 24, 3pm Service

Calling all sheep, angels, and shepherds: St. Martin's will hold a family-friendly service and pageant on Christmas Eve at 3pm. All children two years and older are invited to be a part of the pageant. There are no speaking parts and costumes are provided. Contact the church office if you would like your child(ren) to participate and/or just meet us in the church library between 2:15 and 2:30 pm to get in costume. Many thanks to Sheri Reynolds and Missy and Matt Campbell for coordinating the pageant.

Christmas Special Offering

St. Martin's has a long history of giving away our Christmas plate offering to an organization that serves others. This year's Christmas offering will go to STEAC (Short Term Emergency Aid Committee. With their food distribution program located here at St. Martin's, STEAC's mission is to provide help with basic necessities to Yolo County families and individuals who are living below the poverty line. Their many services include providing weekend food packs to DJUSD children, offering clothes for job interviews, and coordinating the community-wide STEAC Christmas gift program for families in need. More about STEAC: <https://steac.org/>

Contributions may be made online through the church website (menu item "Christmas Special Offering for The Belfry"), by writing a check with "Christmas Offering/STEAC" on the memo line, or by using the QR code on page 8 of this bulletin. Checks may be placed in the offering plates or mailed to the church office.

Prayer Opportunities on Weekdays

Morning Prayer: Wednesdays, 8:30am in the church. Join Rev. Pamela and others for this 20-minute service. (Morning Prayer **will** be held on Wednesdays, December 24 and 31.)

Centering Prayer: Wednesdays, 5pm in Room 6/7. Join Kim Andrup and others for this 60-minute session. (Centering Prayer **will not** be held on Christmas Eve.)

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."

Remember to safely extinguish any candles that you have lit at home during this service.

All are invited to a reception in the narthex after the service.

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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

Rector: The Very Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan, pamela@churchofstmartin.org

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Associate: The Rev. Deborah Hawkins, debbie@churchofstmartin.org

Associate: The Rev. Randall V. Demary, randy@churchofstmartin.org

Deacon: The Ven. Margaret Grayden, margaret@churchofstmartin.org

Music Ministers: Jeffrey and Dr. Suzanne Jubenville, jubenvilles@churchofstmartin.org

Church Operations Director: Gabe Avila, communications@churchofstmartin.org

Administrative Assistant: Janet Lane, info@churchofstmartin.org

Treasurer: Jessie Ann Owens, treasurer@churchofstmartin.org



STATEMENT OF
COMMITMENT AND ACTION



WEBSITE LINK



TITHELY: GIVE
WITH A CLICK

*The Episcopal Church of St. Martin • 640 Hawthorn Lane • Davis, California • 95616
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We are a carbon neutral church.