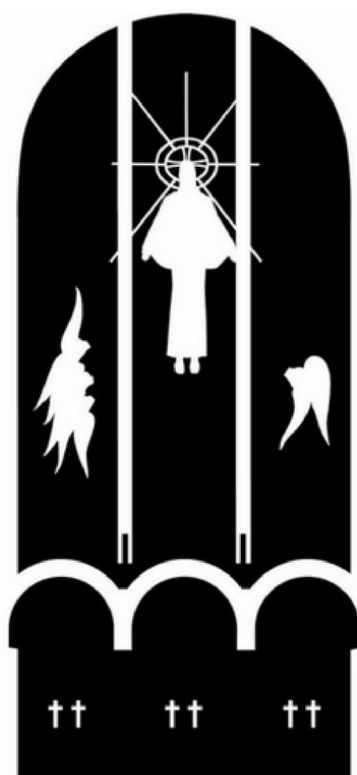


DECEMBER 17, 2023

9:00 AM

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



ST. MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

606 W 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS

[WWW.SAINTMARTINS.ORG](http://WWW.SAINTMARTINS.ORG)

# LOVE, SHARE, & SERVE BOLDLY.

*No matter where you find yourself on your faith journey—join us!*

*Here you have found a church home where believers congregate to encourage each other and grow spiritually in an abundant relationship with the Lord. At St. Martin's, we promote and value an inclusive fellowship. Whether you are young, old, gay, straight, single, married, partnered—from all walks of life, backgrounds, and cultures—we welcome you!*

*We welcome you to our Family Worship, a casual and reflective service of togetherness. The Holy Spirit gathers us around the means of grace - the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.*

*Families with small children may enjoy playing with toys on the Prayground rug in the Narthex. The nursery is open for children 0-4 years. The joyful noise of our young ones is always welcome in this space. Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex or you can listen through your smartphone. The ushers are happy to help you.*

*Notes in italics offer directions about the service. **The people's responses are in bold.***

## PRELUDE

GOLDEN SLUMBERS

PAUL MCCARTNEY

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## WELCOME

*Please take a moment to greet your neighbors as we begin to worship together.*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light.*

**Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. Amen.**

*All four Advent candles are lit.*

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

*We share a piece to invite us into consideration of scripture and worship through different voices.*

MARY

PATTY GRIFFIN

Mary you're covered in roses, you're covered in ashes  
You're covered in rain  
You're covered in babies, you're covered in slashes  
You're covered in wilderness, you're covered in stains  
You cast aside the sheet, you cast aside the shroud  
Of another man, who served the world proud  
You greet another son, you lose another one  
On some sunny day and always stay, Mary

Jesus says Mother I couldn't stay another day longer  
Flies right by and leaves a kiss upon her face  
While the angels are singin' his praises in a blaze of glory  
Mary stays behind and starts cleaning up the place

Mary she moves behind me  
She leaves her fingerprints everywhere  
Every time the snow drifts, every time the sand shifts  
Even when the night lifts, she's always there

Mary you're covered in roses, you're covered in ruin  
you're covered in secrets  
You're covered in treetops, you're covered in birds  
who can sing a million songs without any words  
You cast aside the sheets, you cast aside the shroud  
of another man, who served the world proud  
You greet another son, you lose another one  
on some sunny day and always stay  
Mary

## GREETING

May God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be with us as we worship today.

**Amen**

## PRAYER

Let us pray together. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### READING

LUKE 1:26-38

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# CHILDREN'S SONG

*Please be seated. Children are invited to come forward for the children's time with the Pastor.*

## WE ARE WAITING FOR JESUS

## JESUS BRINGS PEACE



2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Lov-ing Shep-herd, walk be-side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

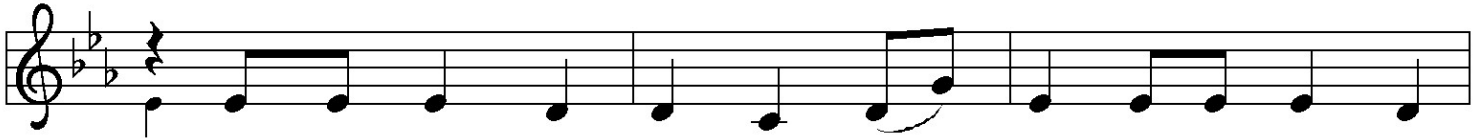
# CHILDREN'S TIME

## MESSAGE

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Prayer cards, which can be found in the pew pockets, are collected by the ushers during the hymn. Prayer requests may also be sent via email or text message to [prayer@saintmartins.org](mailto:prayer@saintmartins.org).*



1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle  
 2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -  
 3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -  
 ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car -  
 com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter  
 ry both the mor - tal and di - vine. Then she learned of  
 sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us



in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is  
 God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy, and she  
 in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.  
 ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.  
 watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

## PRAYERS

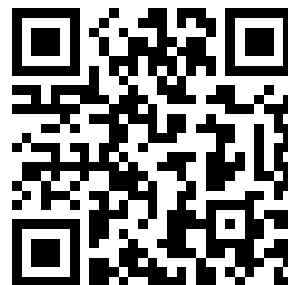
*Each petition ends with: Merciful God, receive our prayer.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

*St. Martin's and its ministries are supported  
by our offerings of ourselves, our time and our possessions.  
Now we give as God has so graciously  
given to us. To donate electronically,  
go to [saintmartins.org/giving](http://saintmartins.org/giving) or scan the QR code.*



## MUSICAL OFFERING

### THE ROSE

AMANDA MCBROOM

Some say love, it is a river  
That drowns the tender reed  
Some say love, it is a razor  
That leaves your soul to bleed  
Some say love, it is a hunger  
An endless aching need  
I say love, it is a flower  
And you, its only seed  
It's the heart afraid of breaking  
That never learns to dance  
It's the dream afraid of waking  
That never takes the chance  
It's the one who won't be taking  
Who cannot seem to give  
And the soul afraid of dying  
That never learns to live  
Just remember in the winter  
Far beneath the bitter snows  
Lies the seed that with the sun's love  
In the spring becomes the rose

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Please stand as you are able.*

Let us pray.

**God, you have given us so much and we thank you for your generosity. Please use these gifts we bring to make our world better.**

**Amen**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,  
our Salvation and our Hope,...

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection...  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever. **Amen**



## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

*Our communion table is open to all. Everyone is welcome to receive communion regardless of age or denomination. Please come forward to receive the bread then pick up a cup to receive wine. Gluten free wafers are available if requested. If you prefer to remain in your seat, please pick up a communion cup in the narthex or ask an usher to let the communion assistants know. A Stephen Minister will be in front near the pulpit to offer healing prayer during communion. You are invited to light a prayer candle on the table near the altar.*

## MUSIC AT COMMUNION

LET IT BE

JOHN LENNON & PAUL MCCARTNEY

When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me

Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me

Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be

Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

And when the broken hearted people living in the world agree

There will be an answer, let it be

For though they may be parted, there is still a chance that they will see

There will be an answer, let it be

And when the night is cloudy there is still a light that shines on me

Shine until tomorrow, let it be

I wake up to the sound of music, Mother Mary comes to me

Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

## TABLE BLESSING

*Please stand as you are able.*

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you today, tomorrow and always. **Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please be seated.*

*The children are dismissed at 9:45am to go to the Chapel.*

## BLESSING

*Please stand as you are able.*

The God of peace bless you,  
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,  
and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

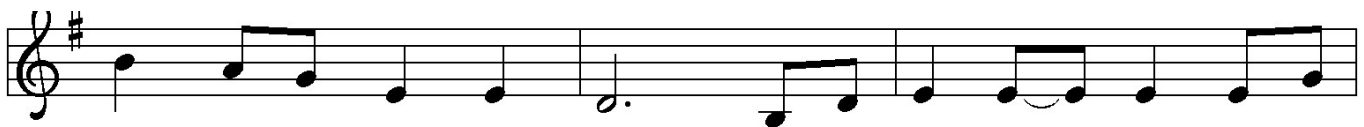
## SENDING SONG

### CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

THIS JOY



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



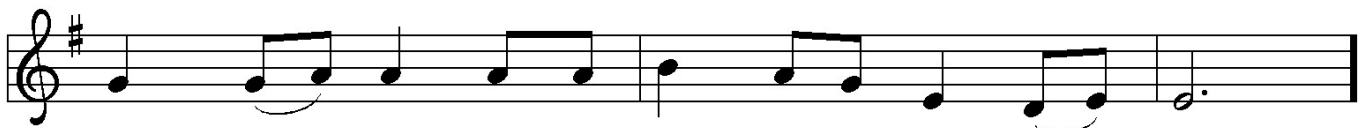
won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

## DISMISSAL

Let's leave here to love, share and serve boldly!

**And give thanks to God. Amen!**

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING TODAY

Pastor Ellen Williams - *preaching/presiding*

Ann Howard - *assisting minister*

Elise and Merrick Santana,

Gus and Lucy Friedrich - *communion assistants*

- *acolytes*

Whitney Myers - *Stephen Minister*

Tim O'Brien - Director of Music

Austin Haller - Associate Director of Music

Katherine Altobello O'Brien, vocals; Andrew Fuhrman, drums;

Darin Layne, guitar; Jay Clement, bass - *musicians*

Mike Kaase - *sound*

Norm Hummell - *ushers*

Tom Blomquist, Nancy Schroeder - *Altar Guild*

Susan Sossamon - *Welcome Center*

Christine Fuhrman - *Fellowship Snacks*