

DECEMBER 24, 2023

4:00 PM

THE
NATIVITY
OF OUR
LORD



ST. MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
606 W. 15TH ST. AUSTIN, TEXAS
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!

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 available to help you.

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

PRELUDE

CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE

VINCE GUARALDI

SLEIGH RIDE

LEROY ANDERSON

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

MUSICAL REFLECTION

MAYBE, CHRISTMAS

TIM O'BRIEN

Christmas again, and it hardly seems possible.
Didn't we just put away the lights?

You can haul the holly out and bring the tinsel down,
But our only ivy's overgrown, and honestly this year
Of everything both in the wood and here
I fear it's melancholy bears the crown.

Truth be told, I'm ready for Christmas to come and go.
It's warmer than it ought to be, and
It seems harder every year to believe that angels and a baby
Could ever turn the world.

But then you appear,
your eyes as brown as chestnuts in the coals
Swinging through the kitchen door and letting in the cold
A smile as wild as any unexpected holy night.
And say, "It's snowing! Won't you help me hang the lights?"

Maybe, Christmas, maybe just once more
We'll dare to hum a tune and hang
A wreath out on the door.
Maybe Christmas, maybe one more time,
We'll string our hopes along on the eaves
And sing old prayers in rhyme.

Invite the neighbors over for a cup of something warm
We'll toast to friends and family, those who've gone and those who've just been born.
Perhaps we'll sip a touch too much and finally say how much we care.
And, startled by this fearless nearness, share a stroll outside and breathe the ancient
air.

And maybe, Christmas, maybe just tonight
We'll sing a carol though we know
the words don't fit just right
And maybe, Christmas, may we look afar.

And lift our hearts at evening's fall,
Believe a Child can change us all
Believe in Love that holds us close
and lights our Christmas Star.

Just maybe, Christmas, maybe we will see
The faintest touch of silver light
For all the troubled world this night.
Yet even so, how very bright
This Christmas still may be.

○ COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL ADESTE FIDELES

Please stand as you are able.

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

GREETING

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

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

READING

LUKE 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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.

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Verse 3

GO TELL IT

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.



Refrain

CHILDREN'S TIME

MESSAGE

SERMON SONG

Please stand as you are able and join in singing.

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.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYERS

*Each petition ends with: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

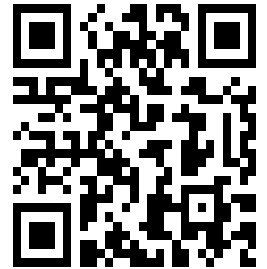
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

The people are seated.

St. Martin's and its ministries are supported by our offerings of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. We give now as God has so graciously given to us. To donate, go to saintmartins.org/giving or scan the QR code.



MUSICAL OFFERING

MARY'S BOY CHILD

JESTER HAIRSTON

Long time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible says
Mary's Boy Child, Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas Day
Hark, now hear the angels sing
New King's born today
And man will live forevermore
Because of Christmas day
Trumpet sound and angels sing
Listen to what they say
And man will live forevermore
Because of Christmas day

While shepherds watched their flocks by
night
They saw a bright new shining star
And heard a choir from heaven sing
The music came from afar
Now Joseph and his wife Mary
Came to Bethlehem that night

They found no place to bear her Child
Not a single room was in sight
Hark, now hear the angels sing
New King's born today
And man will live forevermore
Because of Christmas day
Trumpet sound and angels sing
Listen to what they say
And man will live forevermore
Because of Christmas day
Christmas day
Christmas day
By and by they found a little nook
In a stable all forlorn
And in a manger cold and dark
Mary's little Boy Child was born
Trumpets sound and angels sing
Listen to what they say
That man will live forevermore
Because of Christmas day...

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,
Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.

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 birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
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 COMMUNION

Please be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

Our communion table is open to all. Everyone is welcome to receive communion. Please come forward to receive the bread then pick up a cup to receive wine. Gluten free wafers are available by request and grape juice cups are at the center of each cup tray.

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

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

ENGLISH TRADITIONAL

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.

God our redeemer,

you have fed us at this table

with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

As you have gathered us in joy,

send us forth as messengers of your peace.

Make us shine with the good news of your glory,

born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,

+ Jesus grant you grace and truth,

and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,

now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!

STILLE NACHT

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Ellen Williams - *preaching/presiding*

Linda Zander - *assisting minister*

Pat Larson, Heidi Gibbons - *communion ministers*

Fred Aus - *Stephen Minister*

Katherine Altobello O'Brien, Tim O'Brien - *vocals*

Peggy Stern - *piano*

Darin Layne, Jay Clement - *guitar*

Andrew Fuhrman - *drums*

Utah Hamrick - *double bass*

Rachel Spencer - *trumpet*

Mike Kaase - *sound*

David Cross, Karen Cross - *video*

Norm Hummell - *ushers*

Tom and Nora Friedrich - *snacks*

Lisa Stafford - *welcome center*

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYFUL NEW YEAR!

*We invite you to join the St. Martin's family
in offering this prayer throughout 2024:*

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ELW page 317

WORSHIP WITH US!

Regular Sunday worship Services:

- 8:45am Nursery open for ages 0-4
- 9:00am Family Worship with Band**
- 9:45am Chapel Gathering for children
- 10:00am Faith Formation for all ages
- 11:00am Traditional Choral Worship**

OUR ST. MARTIN'S VALUES:

We **Worship** God and deepen relationships with one another through Lutheran faith traditions, including engaging liturgy, inspiring music, and lifelong faith formation.

We **Extend** God's inclusive gift of welcome to all people, especially those historically excluded from traditional church communities.

We **Advocate** for justice, righteousness, and mercy with our time, property, and power.

We **Rally** everyone to use our God-given gifts and talents to love, share, and serve all of God's creation boldly.

WEAR reminds us to wear the full armor of God.

SAINT MARTIN'S LEADERSHIP

Rev. Ellen Williams
pastorellen@saintmartins.org

Katherine Lutter
klutter@saintmartins.org

Tim O'Brien
tobrien@saintmartins.org

Kathy Edgar
kedgar@saintmartins.org

Fay Jones
fjones@saintmartins.org

Austin Shortes
ashortes@saintmartins.org

Essic Williams
essic@saintmartins.org

Senior Pastor

512.537.8706

Business Manager

512.402.3082

Director of Music

Communications Coordinator

Office Administrator / Volunteer Coordinator

Youth Minister

512.537.8724

Facilities Manager

Saint Martin's Church Council

Stephen Ottmers

Laura Raun Carroll

David Dunn

Jackie Chuter

council2023@saintmartins.org

President

President-Elect

Treasurer

Secretary

At-Large Council Members

Debbie Alkire

Penny Davis

Carolynn Elmshaeuser

Carey Henderson

Norm Hummell

John Santana

School Board

Larry Archer

Anna Bergstrom

LaNelle Deardorf

Terrell Halaska Dunn –*president*

Becky Montgomery

Michael Roth

Volunteer Committee Chairs

Connections: Susan Jensen, Karen Cross

Faith Formation: Heather Santana

Serves: James Gavin

Facilities: Norm Hummell, Bob Daemmrich

ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

WWW.SAINTMARTINS.ORG