



# Christmas Eve ~ 11pm

MELLOW WORSHIP † HOLY COMMUNION

Restless people welcome.

**Thank God you are here!**

## **Candles**

- Please light prayer candles in the stand by the chapel altar for those who are on your mind & in your heart tonight.
- As you return to your seat after Communion, take a candle to light & sing at the end of the service.

**Prepare your body, heart & mind for worship.**

Entrust yourself to God's care. Breathe.

Try sitting tall. Ground your feet & soul.

## Gathering music

## Christmas carols

*Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*  
Karen Miller, cello & Lura Koch, cornamuse

### Beginning sitting

John 1:1-5,14,16,18

Priest In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

Mike All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing  
came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life  
was the light of all people.

ALL **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

Mike And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

ALL **From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.**

Priest No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close  
to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Please rise as the bell rings 3 times slowly. ◎◎◎*

### O come all ye faithful

(music in blue hymnal #83)

<sup>1</sup> **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;**

*Refrain* **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

<sup>2</sup> **God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
only-begotten Son of the Father;**

*Refrain*

<sup>3</sup> **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest;**

*Refrain*

<sup>4</sup> **See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;**

*Refrain*

## Opening Acclamation <sup>standing</sup>

Priest Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

## Expanded *Kyrie* <sup>standing</sup>

Priest Lord, you bring our fear into the light of love;  
while we prefer to hide in the shadows. \*

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest Christ, you promise healing for the earth;  
while we turn our backs on our common world.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Priest Lord, you come near in the vulnerable Word made flesh;  
while we worship idols of celebrity and power.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

## Collect for Christmas

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

O God, YOU cause this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who know the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

ALL **Amen.**

*The people sit for the reading.*

## A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors, and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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 The Word of the Lord.

ALL **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise and sing.*

**O little town of Bethlehem**, stanzas 1-3 (music in blue hymnal, #79)

<sup>1</sup> **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.**

<sup>2</sup> **For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.**

<sup>3</sup> **How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

**The Gospel ~ Listening for the Good News**

with recorder music

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Luke 2:1-20

People **Glory to YOU, Lord Christ.**

NRSV

*The people sit.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while

Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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.

~ *Alto Recorder* ~ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

~ *Tenor Recorder* ~

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

~ *Soprano Recorder* ~

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

~ *Alto Recorder* ~

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

~ *Sopranino Recorder* ~

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

~ *Soprano Recorder* ~

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God:

~ *Sopranino Recorder* ~

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

When 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."

*~ Alto Recorder ~*

So they went with haste and found Mary & Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

*~ Tenor Recorder ~*

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

*~ Alto Recorder ~*

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

*~ Sopranino Recorder ~*

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Please rise.*

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to YOU, Lord Christ.**

*Singing together:*

**Joy to the World**, stanzas 1,2,4

(music in blue hymnal #100)

- <sup>1</sup> 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.**
- <sup>2</sup> 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.**
- <sup>3</sup> He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

*The people sit.*

## **The Word Made Flesh ~ Homily**

*The people kneel or stand as able.*

### **Prayers of the People**

\*

Priest Let us pause in this space between parties and cleaning up, between preparing everything and opening presents, between longing and rejoicing.

Jayson Pause and remember Whose you are, and Whose you will always be.

Gina Pause and remember in Whose name you pray, and Whose love you seek, and hold, and give away.

Priest Pause and pray that all may see the world with the eyes of wonder of the newborn Christ, with the loving heart of God's act of self-giving.

Ruby Pause and pray that we may all treat one another with the honor and adoration that Mary and Joseph, shepherds and wise ones, angels and all the heavenly choir showed to the tiny child. ~~~



Priest On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, we offer prayers for this community, the nation, and the world.

Jayson For parents, families, and newborn infants. Strengthen families in the bonds of love and commitment, that they may delight in the joy of this holy night. ~~~

Gina For the sick (especially for \_\_\_\_\_) that they may heal and feel the comfort of this holy night. ~~~

Jayson For those who labor this night on behalf of others: doctors and nurses, police officers and firefighters, gas station attendants, bus and taxi drivers, and all those whose work prevents them from sharing this evening with those they love, that they may be strengthened by the new life of this holy night. ~~~

- Gina For our troubled world, that war and injustice may be overcome by the peace and love of this holy night. ~~~
- Jayson For refugees and all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night, and all for whom this season is one –not of joy– but of trial and sadness. Embrace them with your tender care, that they may experience the hope of this holy night. ~~~
- Gina For the Church in all the world, that it may proclaim the good news of salvation, and attend to the needs of all God’s people, emboldened by the truth and courage of this holy night. ~~~
- Jayson We give thanks for all the faithful departed who have been bearers of the Word made flesh. ~~~
- ALL **Lord, Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and good works, that we may we join the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night. ~~~**

## **Welcome ~ Announcements ~ Offering**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Offertory Music** *There is a Rose, Karen Miller, cello solo*  
*Noël Basque, Lura Koch, recorder solo*

*Please rise.*

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

EOW Eucharistic Prayer 3

- Priest The Lord be with you.  
People **And also with you.**  
Priest Lift up your hearts.  
People **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**



Priest All thanks and praise are YOURS at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, YOUR eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom YOU created all things.  
YOU laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea;  
YOU brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

ALL **Wondrous are YOU, Holy One of Blessing,  
all YOU create is a sign of hope for our journey;**

Priest And so as the morning stars sing YOUR praises, we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

ALL **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of YOUR glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Priest Glory and honor are YOURS, Creator of all,  
YOUR Word has never been silent;  
YOU called a people to YOURself, as a light to the nations,  
YOU delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of YOUR grace, YOU gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of YOUR holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

ALL **Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, YOU have freed us from sin,  
brought us into YOUR life, reconciled us to YOU, and restored us to  
the glory YOU intend for us.**

We thank YOU that on the night before He died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread. When He had given thanks to YOU, He broke it, and gave it to His friends, and said:

“Take, eat: This is MY Body, which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of ME.”

*bells ring*

As supper was ending, 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 poured out for you —and for all— for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of ME.”

*bells ring*

And so, we remember all that was done for us: [the birth, the life, the healing, the feeding, the forgiving, the touching, the teaching, the truth-telling,] the cross, the tomb, the resurrection, the ascension. We long for Christ's coming in glory. Presenting to YOU these gifts YOUR earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim YOU, O Christ:

ALL **Living YOU taught us love & forgiveness,  
Dying, YOU destroyed our death.  
Rising, YOU restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Priest Send YOUR Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be to us the Body and Blood of YOUR Christ. Grant that we, burning with YOUR Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

ALL **Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ.**

Priest In the fullness of time, gather us with all YOUR people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of YOUR Holy Spirit, we worship YOU our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

ALL **Blessed are YOU now and for ever. AMEN.**

*bells ring*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Traditional

ALL **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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Fraction Anthem**

*EOW1*

Priest Alleluia! Christ is the true bread who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.  
People **Whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!**

## About Communion

- **GLUTEN-FREE** Communion is available. Please inform the priest at the rail.
- ALL CHRISTIANS ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.
- If you are not baptized or not comfortable receiving communion, perhaps you would like a blessing. Come to the altar rail along with the others and kneel or stand. Cross your arms over your chest as a sign that you would like to receive only a blessing in the name of Christ.
- If you are not able to come forward, please notify our usher so we may bring communion to you in the pew.
- The Bread and Cup are given to the communicants with these words  
The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**  
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

*First a prayer, then the candles...*

*Please rise.*

**Prayer after Communion** standing

*Wee Book p.89 + BOS*

Priest Let us pray.

ALL **Faithful God**

**in the wonder of YOUR wisdom and love**

**YOU fed YOUR people in the wilderness with the bread of angels,  
and YOU sent Jesus to be the bread of life.**

**We thank YOU for feeding us with this bread.**

**May it strengthen us this holy night**

**that we, who share his body, live his risen life;**

**we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;**

**we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope YOU have set before us,**

**so that we and all YOUR children shall be free,**

**and the whole earth live to praise YOUR name;**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Prepare to light your candle from the center aisle....*

*The lights go down as our candlelight spreads throughout.*

## **Christmas Blessing**

Priest May the wonder and joy of the Incarnation of God's Son become more and more the center of your faith, and may the blessing of our gracious God —Father, Son and Holy Spirit —mother of us all— surround you now, and fill you with Light forever.

People **Amen.**

*The people kneel or stand. ... very careful with our flames & wax...*

## **Silent Night, Holy Night**

music in blue hymnal #111

- 1 Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2 Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**
- 3 Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

*silence*

## Dismissal & Peace

Priest As we blow out our candles, imagine the light entering our hearts.  
May Christ's Light transform us to live into the Mystery of  
Christmas as we go in peace to love & serve the Lord and  
shine His Light into our world.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Priest The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**



## Tonight's Cast & Crew

Greeter/Usher	Ruby Downs
Musicians	Lura Koch, cornamuse, recorders Karen Miller, cello Jeremy Slobodzian, guitar
Crucifer	Ted Imrie
Lector	Mike Kelly
Prayer Leaders	Jayson Slobodzian Gina Slobodzian
Eucharistic Ministers	Mike Kelly Gina Slobodzian
Altar Guild	Gail Schneider
Priest	The Rev. Dr. Emily Hillquist Davis

## ST. MARTIN'S USUAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Saturdays

Mellow Worship. Restless people welcome. Come as you are. 5<sup>05</sup>PM

### Sundays

Traditional Holy Communion with "Thee"s & "Thou"s, no music 8am

Christian Formation for Children & Adults 9am

Holy Communion with organ, choir, congregational singing  
and Children's Worship 10:15am

Sunday Nursery hours: 9 – 11:45am

*If you like night worship by candlelight with exquisite music...*

**New Year's Eve ~ Saturday, December 31, 5:30pm at our Cathedral downtown**

**Beautiful & Mellow worship with candlelight, Taizé chanting,  
exquisite music & light reception.**

*Confluence: A Center for Spirituality* offers this New Year's Eve worship  
with music in the contemplative tradition of the ecumenical &  
international Taizé Community in northern France.

Our friend, Lura Koch, one of tonight's musicians, will be playing.

---

\*Sources of some of the special material used in this service: Infant encounter photo: Creative Commons/Narith5. The "Pause" prayer intro to Prayers of the People (PoP) adapted from worldinprayer.org as found at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/12/prayers-of-people-after-christmas.html>. Expanded Kyrie from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* © 2008 Steven Shakespeare.



# St. Martin's Episcopal Church

*A Beacon of Christ's Love, Spirit Fed, Serving Others*



The Rt. Reverend George Wayne Smith, Bishop of Missouri

The Reverend Jon W. Hall, *Rector*, [jhall@stmartinschurch.org](mailto:jhall@stmartinschurch.org)

The Reverend Christopher Slane, [cslane@stmartinschurch.org](mailto:cslane@stmartinschurch.org)

The Reverend Jay Kanzler, *Associate Priest*

The Reverend Dr. Emily Hillquist Davis, [edavis@stmartinschurch.org](mailto:edavis@stmartinschurch.org)

*Clergy & Lay Ministers of St. Martin's are available for prayer, to discuss personal & spiritual matters, and to visit folks in hospital or homebound; please e-mail us or phone the church.*

15764 Clayton Road, Ellisville, MO 63011

tel: 636.227.1484

[www.stmartinschurch.org](http://www.stmartinschurch.org)



This is the Advent Mosaic the parish has been working on throughout Advent. It's now hanging in the Lobby!

Thanks to everybody —young and old—  
who helped complete this  
fun art project.