

## St. Martin's Episcopal Church

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

*Jesus' birth long ago...  
his life, teaching, and self-giving...  
Through faith, God is born in our hearts  
moment by moment, breath by breath.  
Let's find our way in the dark back to the stable  
and enter into the humility, simplicity,  
patience, and delicate nature  
of what's unfolding in our hearts  
to discover how God is being born in our lives. ~ James Finley \**



Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve 2017 – 5<sup>PM</sup>  
Pageant—Holy Communion—*Silent Light* by Candlelight



**Take heart!**~especially children~ (adults welcome, too)  
**What is your gift to Jesus?** 1. Write it on the heart-shaped paper.  
2. Put it in the plate as part of your offering this holy night.  
*How will Christ's Light in your life help bring heaven on earth?*

*Thank God you are here. And grab a candle on the way in!*

*Please complete a Welcome Card from the pew & add it to the offering or hand to clergy.*

GREETERS AND USHERS NEAR THE DOORS ARE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.



*Hearing assist devices are available from the ushers.*

**Prelude**

UKRAINIAN BELL CAROL  
Piano solo by Vince Clark

arr. Bober

*Please stand at the ringing of the bell and sing.  
as children, angels, and any animals and shepherds process in with helper1.*

**Hymn 100**

“JOY TO THE WORLD!”

GEORGE F. HANDEL

**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.**

**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 Angel Gabriel stands front and center. Other children wait in the choir area.*

## Opening Acclamation *(center mic)*

ANGEL GABRIEL: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

PEOPLE: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

PRIEST: This night is like no other. Let us dream and sing our way to Bethlehem. The children will show us how.

## The Holy Gospel *(pulpit)*

Luke 2:1-20 & beyond

GOSPELER: On this holy night, we begin with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

PEOPLE: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

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

## STORYTELLER 1: *(lectern)*

The little town we seek sits 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 gathering to break bread together. “Bethlehem” means “House of Bread”.

In the center of the village is a small inn. On this night it is overflowing with people seeking food and a place to sleep. Behind the inn is a dark stable full of animals.

All is still and quiet in the little town.

*Seated, please sing.*

**Hymn 79**

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

*St. Louis*

**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.  
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 all on earth.**

*(lectern)*

STORYTELLER 2: As night falls, two last travelers come slowly up the road.

Look, the young woman will soon be a mother.

They are Mary and Joseph from Nazareth! *Mary and Joseph start waling.*

They've walked SIX DAYS to come to this city where King David was born, so long ago.

They came, like the others, because the Roman emperor wants all people counted.

But it's late. Mary is weary. Where will they sleep?

There is no room in the inn, so they seek shelter with the animals.

*Wait for Mary and Joseph to come up the aisle and take their places.*

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

And she gave birth to her firstborn son. ~~~.

STORYTELLER 2: Stars brightened slowly in the sky. All creation held its breath.

Suddenly, from the stable... the cry of a newborn child! Mary gently wrapped her baby in a blanket and laid him in the feed box that Joseph filled with straw.

*Mary uncovers baby J.*

**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.**

*Shepherds and sheep come center – low in front of Gabriel.*

ANGEL GABRIEL: In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds were watching their shadowy sheep. All at once, the darkness was lost in the light, and in the midst of the light I came and said to the shepherds in the field:

ALL: **“Do not be afraid!**

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

*Angels come center —high beside Gabriel.*

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

ALL: **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,  
good will to all people everywhere.” ~ ~ ~**

STORYTELLER 2:

The shepherds ran with joy across the fields to Bethlehem.

*Shepherds & sheep move up to look at BabyJ.*

In the barn behind the inn, they found the Holy Family and crept forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find *Nativity itself* in the center of all that love.

GOSPELER: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

PLEASE RISE AND SING.

**Hymn 96**

*“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”*

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high,  
Singing sweetly through the night,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their brave delight.**

REFRAIN: ***Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

***Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tiding did you hear? REFRAIN**

PRIEST: Now the Bible tells us that this child grew and became strong. (Luke 2:40)  
He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.  
People were filled with wonder as he taught, fed, healed and forgave.  
Jews and gentiles alike began to understand Jesus in tune with creation  
and as the fulfillment of ancient Hebrew prophecies about the Messiah,  
whom God would send as Savior.

STORYTELLER 1: Matthew's gospel tells us of three wise Magi (Mt2:1-12)  
from the east well beyond the lands of Israel and Judah...

Imagine three camels plodding up the road to Bethlehem. The Magi are following  
a bright star wherever it will lead them to find the King of kings.

Seated, please sing along *as the magi enter*.

**Hymn 128**

*"We three kings"*

*Kings of Orient*

**We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.**

REFRAIN: ***O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!***

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign. *Refrain***

KING 1: Look! An Angel of the Lord! *(sharing center mic)*

KING 2: Maybe this Angel can tell us about the star we're following.

KING 3: Angel, can you tell us about this star?

ANGEL GABRIEL: This Star shows the way to the One whom the prophets foretold.  
Remember what the Prophet Isaiah said about the coming Messiah...

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 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.

ISAIAH: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Collect for Christmas** (*center mic*)

KING 1: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

KING 1: Let us pray.

O God, YOU cause this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light:  
Grant that we, who have known 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. **Amen.**



## Prayers of the People Kneeling OR standing

*(Leader1@pulpit; Leader2@lectern)*

PRIEST: On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for this community, the nation, and the world.

LEADER 1: For the Church in all the world, so 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.

ALL: **Lord, we pray.**

LEADER 2: For our troubled world, so that war and injustice may give way to the peace and love of this holy night.

ALL: **Lord, we pray.**

LEADER 1: For those who are cold, hungry, or alone this night, and all for whom this is a season —not of joy— but of trial and sadness. Embrace them with your tender care, so that they may experience the hope of this holy night. ALL: **Lord, we pray.**

LEADER 2: For the sick —especially for Marge Driskill, Mary Jane Drake, Mary Marx, Irene Juris, George Hogarty, and Fil Roth— that they may heal and feel the comfort of this holy night. ALL: **Lord, we pray.**

LEADER 1: For all who labor this night on behalf of others: doctors, nurses, police, firefighters, gas station attendants, bus and taxi drivers, military personnel, and all whose work prevents them from sharing this evening with loved ones, so that they may be strengthened by the new life of this holy night. ALL: **Lord, we pray.**

LEADER 2: For parents, families, and newborn babies. Strengthen families in their love and commitment, so that they may delight in the joy of this holy night. ALL: **Lord, we pray.**

LEADER 1: We thank YOU for the love and the lives of all who have died. Give us grace to share our lives in faith, hope and love with good works, so that we may we join the hosts of heaven and sing the joy of this holy night. ALL: **Lord, we pray.**

PRIEST: Mighty God, we open our lives to your care. Give us zeal in our ministries and joy in our work, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

## Offering Sentence

PRIEST: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

*During this hymn, as we pass the offering plate,  
the children go sit with loved ones.  
Please help them find their way.*

***KIDS, PLEASE STAY IN COSTUME. WE'D LIKE TO TAKE GROUP PICTURES IN PARK HALL  
AS WE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO ENJOY REFRESHMENTS AFTER WORSHIP.  
PLEASE PUT COSTUMES AWAY IN BASEMENT BEFORE YOU LEAVE.***

**Offering Hymn 87**

"HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

MENDELSSOHN

**Hark, the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born 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.'**

REFRAIN: ***Hark, the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see: hail, the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.** REFRAIN

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace: hail, the Sun of Righteousness.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.**

REFRAIN

***Mary and Joseph will stay and help at the Altar,  
during communion and taking torchlight to the people.***

***Take heart! Include in the offering: What is your gift to Jesus?***

- 1. Write it on the heart-shaped paper (available near the doors).*
- 2. Put it in the plate as part of your offering this holy night.*

***How will Christ's Light in your life help bring heaven on earth?***

*We will post these hearts to read later this week through  
our celebration of Epiphany (transferred to) Sunday, January 7, 2018.*

***TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO ENJOY REFRESHMENTS IN PARK HALL AFTER WORSHIP.***

## Welcome ~ Announcements

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Offering** *Please rise.*

PRIEST: So now we all come, following the star, to find “Emmanuel”—God-with-us.

PEOPLE: **We come, as people have come all through the ages, bringing ourselves & our gifts to the Christ Child, God’s Christmas gift to us.**

#### The Great Thanksgiving

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: It is right, for YOU made us, and before us, YOU made the world we inhabit, and before the world, YOU made the eternal home in which, through Christ, we have a place.

Grateful for the world we know and the universe beyond, we praise YOU for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus —whose birth we celebrate tonight— because His life informs our living, and His love changes our hearts.

Remembering His honesty and compassion, His innocent suffering and fearless dying, and His rising to life again breathing forgiveness, we praise YOU, Lord, and worship Him.

As a grown man, on the night before He died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when He had given thanks to YOU, He broke the bread, 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...*

That same night, He took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: “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...*

Merciful God, send now, in kindness, YOUR Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

And let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this world, until we shine with the light of Him whose food we now share.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

ALL: **Blessing & honor & glory & power be to our God for ever and ever. AMEN.**

*bells ring*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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 & Invitation to Communion**

PRIEST: Christ is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

PEOPLE: **Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.**

#### ***Tonight's Logistics***

- *If you don't have a candle, pick one up as you return to your seat.*
- *Mary & Joseph present the Sacraments tonight: visible signs of God's grace that strengthen us to make heaven on earth.*
- *Mary & Joseph will also bring the Light of Christ down the center aisle. Share the flame with your neighbors for the final prayer and Silent Night.*
- *Be careful!*

*(Thank you for leaving the pews and church as clean & clear of wax as possible for the next service.)*

#### ***About Communion***

- ***GLUTEN-FREE*** Communion is available in the crystal box & small chalice. Just tell the priest and Chalice Bearer "***Gluten-Free***" when they come to you at the communion rail.
- ***CHRISTIANS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS MAY RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.*** If you are not baptized or are not comfortable, the priest is happy to pray a blessing on you. Simply cross your arms as you come to the rail.

**Communion Music**

*Christmas medley:*

*O Come Emmanuel, Away in a manger, Unto us a child is born, Pat-a-pan*  
Youth Orchestra

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*Please stand*

**Prayer after Communion**

Wee Book p.89

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 by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may embody your desire  
and be renewed for your service  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*The lights go down as we share our candlelight.*

**Blessing**

PRIEST: May the wonder and joy of the Incarnation of God's Son  
become ever 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. **Amen.**

*The people kneel as able. All sing.*

**Hymn 111**

*"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

*Stille Nacht*

Chris March, guitar

**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.**

**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!**

**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.**

**Dismissal & Peace**

**PRIEST:** As we blow out our candles, imagine that Light of Christ entering our hearts, so that we may help bring heaven on earth.

Go in peace to love & serve the Lord.

**PEOPLE:** **Thanks be to God.**

**PRIEST:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**PEOPLE:** **And also with you.**

*Candles extinguished,  
the people greet each other in the name of the Lord.*

*Please help clean up any wax messes and  
place your candle and holder in a basket on the way out  
OR TAKE THE CANDLE HOME IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHRIST'S BIRTH.*

**Thanks to Pageant Participants  
& youth orchestra!!!**

*Go to Park Hall for Pageant Photo opp & quick mingling  
and hang costumes downstairs before you leave.*

**Willing adults, please help us move props in preparation  
for the next service. Thank you!  
Pageant Photo opp in Park Hall with refreshments.**

**St. Martin's Staff**

Janet Theiss, *Parish Administrator*, [jtheiss@stmartinschurch.org](mailto:jtheiss@stmartinschurch.org)

Denise Marsh, *Music Director*, [dmarsh@stmartinschurch.org](mailto:dmarsh@stmartinschurch.org)

Jill Gould, *Communications & Assistant to Clergy*, [communications@stmartinschurch.org](mailto:communications@stmartinschurch.org)

Kirt Beckman, *Sunday Sexton*

**Vestry:** Tom Allen, Sr.Warden (2018) Susan Carpenter, Jr.Warden (2019)

Sherrie Algren (2018) Ralph Trieschmann (2018) Nancy Young (2018)  
Elin Cogan-Adewummi (2019) Bob Ecker (2019) Kay Fletcher (2019)  
John Alden (2020) Page Andersen (2020) Michael Kovach (2020) Susan Merchak (2020)

**Convention Delegates:** Loretta Go (2018) Kay Fletcher (2019)  
Larry Cornelius (2020) Steve Young (2020)

*\*Date in parentheses is the end of the term of service in February of the year noted.*

## Worship Participants In Order of Appearance

<b>Angel Gabriel</b>	Madison Algren
<b>Priests</b>	The Rev. Jon Hall, The Rev. Dr. Emily Hillquist Davis
<b>Gospeler</b>	Ellen Vogt
<b>Storytellers</b>	Patrick Manternach, Nate Manternach
<b>Mary &amp; Joseph</b>	Olivia Diel, Austin Callahan
<b>Angels</b>	Sofia Merchak, Ellie Bosche, Will Bosche
<b>Kings</b>	Paige Algren, Jack Bosche, Madeline Manternach
<b>Prophet Isaiah</b>	Paige Bostic
<b>Prayer Leaders</b>	Ozichi Nzewuihe, Emma Merchak
<b>Youth Orchestra</b>	Patrick Manternach, viola Nathaniel Manternach, viola Madeline Manternach, viola Emma Merchak, cello Omazuru Nzewuihe, violin Ozichi Nzewuihe, cello
<b>Other Musicians</b>	Vincent Clark, piano Chris March, guitar
<b>Music Director</b>	Denise Marsh
<b>Coordinator</b>	Wendy Sain
<b>Assistant</b>	Chloe Bostic
<b>Greeter</b>	Ruby Downs
<b>Ushers</b>	Wayne Peters, Karen Sieron, Sherri Algren
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ruth Minster, Sherrie Algren and more

Worship Sources include Godly Play Christmas Story, Eucharistic Prayer adapted from Enriching Our Worship, liturgies of The Episcopal Church and A Wee Worship Book, 4<sup>th</sup> Incarnation, Wild Goose Publications, 1999. Prayers created, adapted and handed down by various Episcopal priests. Front page wisdom gleaned from James Finley's Advent meditation offered by the Center for Action and Contemplation at [cac.org/faculty-advent-messages](http://cac.org/faculty-advent-messages).





## ***Christmas flowers given to the glory of God***

In memory of those who passed in the family  
By Robert & Ginny Marchetto

In memory of Anne & George Krelo  
By Jane Dalton

In memory of Thomas Chittooran, Ashok Thomas Chittooran, Ipe Mathai and Ira Way  
By Rina Chittooran

In thanksgiving for Adelaide Ryan Ehrhardt  
By Mike & Kathy Ehrhardt

In memory of Harold Patterson  
By Jacqueline Patterson

In memory of The Rev. & Mrs. W. P. Jones and Marion Peeples  
By Winifred J. Peeples

In memory of Lavon Richardson  
By Susan Richardson

In celebration of 50 years as members of St. Martin's  
By Bob & D'Arcy Elspeman

In memory of Art & Florence Simpson, Vic & Grace Phillips and Linda Schroeder  
By Daryl Norman

In celebration of all God's blessings  
By Diana & Jack Hauser

In thanksgiving for our family  
By Ralph & Michelle Trieschmann

In celebration of our 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
By Mary K & Erv Heyde

In celebration of Bob Pomeroy's birthday  
By Mary Pomeroy

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

The Rev. Dr. Emily Hillquist Davis, *Priest Associate*, [edavis@stmartinschurch.org](mailto:edavis@stmartinschurch.org)

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



**St. Martin's Episcopal Church**  
A Beacon of Christ's Love, Spirit Fed, Serving Others

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