

## WELCOME

If you are a visitor or newcomer, our first hope is that you will experience God's love and care. Our second hope is that you will also experience our love and care. Some of us are shy and quiet. Others of us are bold and outgoing. Yet, in all our ways we want to say:  
"YOU ARE WELCOME!"

### OUR OFFERING

Offering gifts to God's service is an integral part of our worship. Many people at St. Martin's have chosen to make their offering by post-dated cheque or PAR. Others prefer weekly offering envelopes. Visitors and guest should not feel obligated to share in our offering, but may do so using the envelope in the back of the hymn book.

### MUSIC

At St. Martin's we are richly blessed by many fine musicians. We encourage you to acknowledge their contributions to worship through silence, or when impelled by the Spirit, through applause.

### OUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

*Bob McPherson* - Chair of the Board  
*Cathy Anderson* - Secretary of the Board  
*Dale Worrall* - Treasurer  
*Kevin Hurlburt* - Caretaker  
*Brandy Emmerich* - Office Administrator  
*Jordan Cantwell* - Pastoral Care & Worship Leadership  
*Keith Hall* - Youth, Young Adults, Newcomer Relations,  
Volunteers & Pastoral Care  
*Darren Wooff* - Children's Ministry & Outreach  
*Betty Lou Agnew* - Organist  
*Cara Wilson* - Handbell Choir  
*Keith Hall & Erin Tempel* - Contemporary Singers  
*Aliah Nelson & Mars Zhao* - Sanctuary Choir  
*Lori Cline Flath* - Band Together



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Vision: To be a thriving, welcoming faith community  
that makes the example of Christ relevant to our living.

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**Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 2018**

**10:30 PM**

### **Words of Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Acknowledgement of the Territory**

In the spirit of reconciliation

let us acknowledge our relationship

with the Indigenous people of this land.

**We acknowledge that we are gathering for worship on the traditional lands of the First Nations and the homeland of the Metis. We are all Treaty people bound by the understandings made in the agreement known as Treaty Six.**

#### **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

**Hope is a Star VU #7 vs 4** (*please stand as you are able*)

Love is the flame that burns in our heart,

Jesus has come and will never depart.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,

and none shall be afraid.

Christ is the light which has come into the world.

**May Christ's light shine in us.**

Emmanuel-God is with us!

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Gloria VU #337**

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis deo  
Gloria, Gloria alleluia, alleluia  
(repeat)

### **Invitation to Worship**

Why do we gather here, on a night so beautifully dark and quiet?

### **To celebrate the birth of a child.**

Who is the child that is born this night?

### **The One, the Christ, the God-with-us.**

Who are we, that we commemorate this birth?

### **His sisters, and brothers and siblings, his disciples and friends.**

Then, as family and friends, let us come together,

To tell stories, and sing songs

To share in the feast of thanksgiving...

### **To celebrate and worship God.**

### **Opening Prayer**

On this holy night, we have come together like those who gathered in Bethlehem that first Christmas Eve.

We have arrived here from many places. We have taken many pathways. We enter with many personal needs. We are a diverse group.

O God, on this night open our hearts to your presence. Tell us your truth in song and in whisper. Touch us in the silence and in music, inspire us in the gathering of this community, we pray in Jesus name.  
Amen

### **Sharing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Emmanuel-God with us- be with you!

### **And also with you.**

### **Lifting our Voices in Song**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful,” (VU#60) *(please stand as you are able)*

### **Listening for God’s Wisdom in Scripture – Luke 2: 1 – 7**

In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

### **Lifting our Voices in Song**

“Away in a Manger” VU#69 *(please remain seated)*

### **Listening for God’s Wisdom in Scripture – Luke 2: 8 – 14**

In that region, there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,<sup>[b]</sup> praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”<sup>[c]</sup>

### **Lifting our Voices in Song**

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” VU#48 *(remain seated)*

### **Listening for God’s Wisdom in Scripture – Luke 2: 15 - 20**

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.”<sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.<sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;<sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### **Contemporary Singers**

“Tell it On the Mountain”

### **Christmas Reflection**

#### **Lifting our Voices in Song**

“Joy to the World” VU#43

#### **Offering Our Gifts**

##### **Offering Song “In Gratitude and Humble Trust” VU#544**

In Gratitude and Humble trust  
we bring our gifts today  
to serve your cause and share your love  
with all along life’s way.  
O God, who gave yourself to us  
in Jesus Christ, your Son.  
teach us to give ourselves each day  
until life’s work is done.

### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

#### **The Invitation**

#### **The Communion Prayer**

May God be with us

**We open our hearts to God and to one another.**

Tonight, let us give God thanks and praise.

**But why do we give God thanks?**

We thank you God that, since the beginning of time,  
you have been present in the creative energy of the universe

empowering life and love.

We sense that love is enhanced on this Christmas Eve  
by the gathering of families, the generosity of spirit,  
and the wonderful story of Jesus’ birth.

Jesus came as one of us - an infant, and then a child,  
a youth and then an adult.

He celebrated with those who celebrated  
and wept with those who wept.

To the despairing, he spoke words of hope.

To the sick, he offered words of comfort and healing.

To the isolated and friendless, he was a friend.

Yet self-interest persisted and turned people away  
from his message of community.

He was betrayed, nailed to a cross and crucified.

He rose again from the dead to inspire us all  
calling us to persevere in love, no matter the cost.

We gather at this table to remember him  
in the eating and drinking

and to seek his Spirit in our living.

#### **Why do we eat bread at this table?**

We remember that when Jesus had a heavy heart  
he gathered with friends over food and drink.

They showed care to one another and he spoke tenderly to them.

**Tonight, we make friends around this table,**

**we share food and drink, and we seek to be made into people  
who show compassion, live love and make justice.**

**We remember Jesus own words recorded for all time:**

Take eat, this is my body broken for you.

Drink from this cup and remember me.

**We remember Jesus’ death and celebrate his resurrection;**

**we await with hope for his transformation of the earth  
with peace and justice.**

God, we ask that you might send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and what we do here

that we too will become signs of life and love in the world. Amen.

## **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

### **Prayer after Communion**

**Having received the gift, having touched and tasted, having heard the glad tidings, we pray you send us from this place renewed in our commitment to celebrate the Christ child's birth on every day and in every way. Refreshed, may we be a gift for others, for Jesus' sake.**

**Amen**

### **Sharing the Light**

"Silent Night" VU#67 (standing with candles)

### **Words of Blessing**

Go from this place in peace.

Anointed by the Holy Spirit, go to serve in God's grace.

Go from this place in love.

Bathed in the light of Christ, go to proclaim God's joy!

And now may the blessing of God,

The Great and Creating One,

The Saving Son Jesus Christ

And the Comforting Holy Spirit

Surround you and hold you,

This night and always. Amen.