

**The Nativity of our Lord
December 24, 2022 - 3 pm
Carols and Holy Communion**

WELCOME!

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Lebanon, OR



Prelude: Ave Maria Schubert *(arr: Alex-Zsolt)*
Ukrainian Bell Carol / What Child is This *(arr: Roger House)*
The Birthday of a King Neidlinger *(arr: Roger House)*
Still, Still, Still Austrian Carol *(arr: Dennis Alexander)*

Processional Hymn #96 "Angels we have heard on high" *(all 4 verses)*

A Word of Welcome by Rev. Wally Gustav

Collect: *Please say together*

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Carol Sing - Hymn #102 *(vs 1-3)* "Once in Royal David's City"

Carol Sing - Hymn #79 *(vs 1-3)* "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Carol Sing - Hymn #89 *(vs 1-2)* "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Carol Sing - Hymn #83 *(vs 1-3)* "O, Come All ye faithful"



Reading: The Birth of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke: 2: 1-20

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. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 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. But Mary treasured all these words and

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

Solo: "O, Holy Night" - Doug Young

We now light the Christ Candle – *(please follow the Advent Wreath booklet in your pew)*

Christmas Candle Lighting – Christmas Eve

Leader: Today is the Birth of Jesus, the Christ, on which we recall the hope we have in Christ.

Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)

The First Candle speaks of Hope, because God keeps promises to us.

- The Second Candle stands for Peace, because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.
- The Third Candle shares Joy, because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence the God.
- The Fourth Candle shows Love, because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Now we light our center and final candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

The center, white candle is lit.

Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

Children bring Mary, Joseph, Christ Child, Shepherds, to the Creche



Liturgy of the Table

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C p369 in the Red BCP)

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 God thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

We sing together

**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. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you this bread. Sanctify it by your Holy Spirit to be the Body of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Mothers and Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Sarah, Rachel, Leah, and Rebecca, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer (*let us sing together*)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
Are yours now and forever. Amen. Amen.**

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

***Congregation:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

A Pastoral Word of Welcome to Christ's Meal at the Lord's Table Distribution

Pastoral Blessing

Priest: Christ has shown himself among us. God has made a dwelling place in the midst of us. The voice of peace has spoken and love has reached every heart. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

***Congregation:* Amen**

Communion Hymn: #101 "Away in a manger"

Post-Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving *(let us say together)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for St. Martin's Church *(let us say together)*

God of Love, open our eyes and ears to perceive you at work in creation, the church, and our parish. Fill our hearts with your love that we may reach out in love to others. Stir up our imagination with your Holy Spirit that we may find new ways to live into life with you. Give us a vision of your mission that we may share your love and

**your spirit in all the places where we work and play and worship you.
In Jesus' holy name, *Amen*.**

Christmas Season Blessings

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless us in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten our hearts with the light of his holiness. ***Amen***

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill us with joy, and make us heralds of the Gospel. ***Amen***.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give us his peace and favor. ***Amen***.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us forever. ***Amen***.

Lighting of the Christmas Candles -- Acolytes provide light for the candles down the center aisle, while the overhead lights are turned off. Unlit candles should be dipped toward the lighted candles as the flame is passed down the pews.

Recessional #111 "Silent Night, Holy Night"
in darkness with lighted candles

Choir sings "Seven-fold Amen"

Please extinguish candles after the seven-fold Amen.

Dismissal:

- Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia
- **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Postlude

