

The First Sunday after Christmas

Lessons & Carols



December 28, 2025
4:00 pm

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Des Plaines, Illinois

St. Martin's Vestry

Bryan Coussens (Senior Warden)

Justin Cochran (Junior Warden)

Monica Brunson

Kris Dahlstrom

Amanda Vandervort

Jack Short, Certified Treasurer

St. Martin's Staff

The Rev. M.E. Eccles, Rector

Karen Wilberg, Music Director/Organist

Helayne Levin, Communications and Operations Mgr.

JB Enterprises West, Inc., Sextons

The Rev. Patrick Pierce, Priest Associate

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Once in Royal David's City*

H102

The congregation, standing, shall be bidden to prayer in these words:

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build, and especially in this, our own community.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**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.

Bidding Carol *Good Christian friends, rejoice*

H107

First Lesson ~ Genesis 3:8-15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed the of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Hymn *Come with us, O Blessed Jesus*

H336

Second Lesson ~ Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

Hymn *Angels from the realms of glory*

H93

Third Lesson ~ Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

H81

Fourth Lesson ~ Micah 5:2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

H79

Fifth Lesson ~ Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary.

Hymn *The Angel Gabriel*

H265

Sixth Lesson ~ Matthew 1:18-23

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Hymn	<i>God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen</i>	H105
	<i>On this day, earth shall ring</i>	H92

Seventh Lesson ~ Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

Hymn	<i>The Snow Lay on the Ground</i>	H110
	<i>Hark! the Herald Angels Sing</i>	H87

The Prayer and Blessing

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may, with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill [us] with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the [grace] of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon [us] and remain with [us] always. **Amen.**

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Closing the building

As we move toward our goal of cleaning and closing the building, we are aware that some of you might want something of St. Martin's as a tangible memory. Some have said they would like a prayer book or hymnal. Some have asked for other things. If you are interested in having something from the building, please email or call Helayne at the office. If we can make your wishes happen we will.

847-824-2043

saintmartinschurch1095@gmail.com

*St. Martin's
Final Worship and Dinner
Sunday, January 4, 2026*

A time to say thanks to God and to our friends

4:00 ~ Eucharist

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm ~ Catered Dinner

The dinner is currently full.

Call the office or email to reserve your spot(s) on the wait list.

Please include the number in your party and names of all guests as well as a phone number

847-824-2043 leave a message or

saintmartinschurch1095@gmail.com

Dear Members of St. Martin's
Episcopal Church,

On behalf of the Des Plaines Clergy Alliance, we write to you with heavy hearts as you approach the closing of this chapter of St. Martin's public ministry. We want you to know, clearly and unequivocally, that you are not alone in this moment of grief and transition.



The closing of a church is never simply an administrative decision or the end of a building's use. It is the culmination of generations of prayer, service, relationships, and faithful witness. It carries with it deep sadness, complex emotions, and a sense of loss that deserves to be named and honored. We recognize how difficult this season is, and we hold profound respect for the courage and faith it takes to walk through it.

Please know that the Alliance will continue to be with you—not only in these final days, but also in the months and seasons that follow. Even after the doors of St. Martin's close, our doors remain open to you as you continue to process, grieve, remember, and discern what comes next. You remain part of the fabric of this faith community in Des Plaines.

We are deeply grateful for the seventy-plus years of ministry of St. Martin's Episcopal Church and for the partnership we have shared over the past several years through the Clergy Alliance. Working alongside your congregation, and with the leadership of Rev. M.E., has been a gift. Your presence, wisdom, and commitment to the wider community have enriched our shared work and strengthened our bonds across traditions.

As you move through this tender time, please know that you are held in prayer by your colleagues in ministry and by faith communities throughout Des Plaines. We pray for peace, for gentle accompaniment in grief, and for the assurance that the love and faith nurtured at St. Martin's Episcopal Church will continue to bear fruit in ways both seen and unseen.

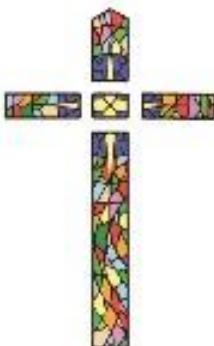
With gratitude, solidarity, and prayer,

The Des Plaines Clergy Alliance

Rev. Gilbert Martinez, *Christ Church UCC*

Rev. Hope Chernich, *First Church UMC*

Rev. Linda Thurston, *Trinity Lutheran ELCA*



St. Martin's Episcopal Church

**All are welcome
and fed with the love of God
pets too!**

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Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
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www.saintmartinschurchdp.com**