



ST. MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
606 W 15TH Street, Austin, Texas | www.saintmartins.org

December 12, 2021 | 11:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Ghirlandaio, Domenico. *Preaching of St. John the Baptist*, 1486-90.

Prelude

Style Moderne

Alexandre Pierre-François Boëly, Op. 43, No. 8

Introit

O Radix Jesse

Plainsong

*O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem
continebunt reges os suum, quem
Gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli
tardare.*

*O Root of Jesse, Who dost stand for an ensign of the people,
before Whom kings shall keep silence, and unto Whom the
Gentiles shall make their supplication: come to deliver us,
and tarry not.*

Gathering

Welcome

The people stand.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The people kneel or are seated.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

On the third Sunday of Advent, we light three candles, reminding us to be on fire! **In a world that is often filled with darkness, let us shine with the unquenchable light of the Holy Spirit.**

By giving of ourselves, our time and our possessions, we can bring hope and joy to our neighbors near and far. **May we look for ways to be a light, using our talents and treasures to share your love.**

Open our eyes to the gifts inside each of us. Open our ears to the needs of the world. Open our hands, that we may actively use them to build a better world. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn

Hymn 248

People, Look East

BESANCON

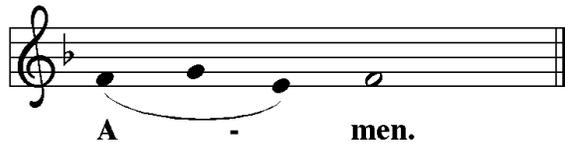
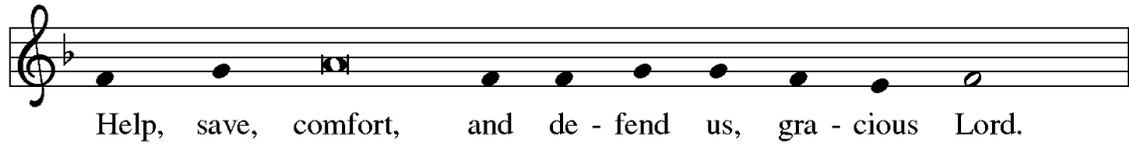
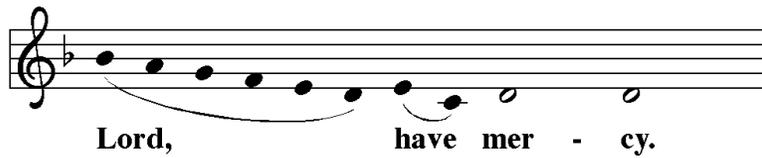
1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as the sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in four numbered stanzas. The first system contains the first four lines of the first stanza. The second system contains the first two lines of the second stanza. The third system contains the first two lines of the third stanza. The fourth system contains the first two lines of the fourth stanza. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and a more active treble line with some melodic movement.



Prayer of the Day

Word

The people are seated.

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
¹⁵The LORD has taken away the
judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your
midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
¹⁶On that day it shall be said to
Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for
it.
¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into
praise
and renown in all the earth.
²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and
praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He

said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The people are seated.

Message

The people stand. Prayer cards are collected by the ushers during the Hymn of the Day.

Hymn of the Day

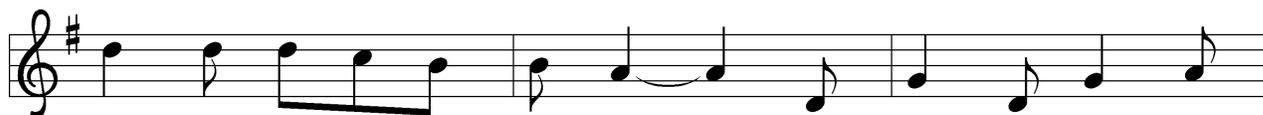
Hymn 249

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE REJOICE



all 1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
higher voices 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
lower voices 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
all 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



all soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
higher voices qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
lower voices qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
all crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Sacrament of Baptism of Atticus Ezra Lutter

p. 227

Let us welcome the newly baptized. We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

The people are seated.

Meal

Offering Give in person, online at saintmartins.org/giving, or text "luther" and your gift amount to 73256. Standard text message and data rates may apply.

Anthem

A Welcome Song

Thomas Pavlechko

Welcome newborn lambs, who in his pastures dwell; where caring shepherds bring them gently to the well; For living waters will their thirst relieve. Leading to the waters, wond'ring shepherds sing the songs of new creation; Ev'ry living thing, when drinking deeply, will this song receive. Heard in Eden's garden when the world was new. Heard again in Bethl'em by a thirsty few. And those who hear the song of Life, believe. Here the newborn lambs may see the Savior's face. With heads bent low, partaking of his perfect grace. And fin'ly rising from the water, live!

The people stand.

Offering Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 4)

Hymn 257
VENI, EMMANUEL



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,', 'heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.', 'Ho - san - na in the high - est.', 'Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.', and 'Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

Thanksgiving at the Table

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...we look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

...bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Lord's Prayer

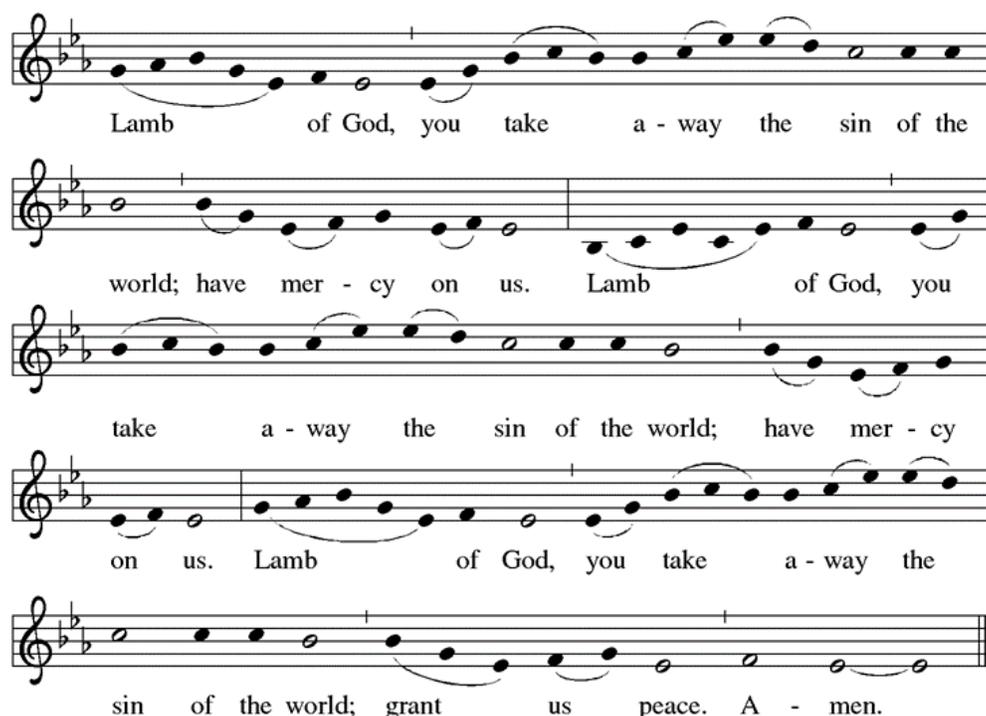
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

The people are seated.

Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

Holy Communion *Our communion table is open to all. Everyone is welcome to receive communion regardless of age or denomination. Gluten free wafers are available.*

Music at Communion

Rejoice Greatly from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

The people stand.

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Sending

Announcements

Blessing

Sending Hymn

Hymn 267

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
 sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Concerto in F: *Allegro*

G.F. Handel, Op. 4, No. 4

Serving Today

Preaching/Presiding:	Rev. Ellen Williams
Assisting Minister:	Kathy Edgar
Lector:	Syringa Bilberry
Communion Ministers:	Karen Cross, Ann Graham
Organist:	Austin Haller
Musicians:	St. Martin's Choir; Jenny Ohrstrom, soprano; Katherine Altobello-O'Brien, alto; Jameson James, tenor; Gil Zilkha, bass
Sound:	Jim Parkhurst
Video:	Eddie Jennings
Ushers:	Norm Hummell

Baptism We rejoice with the family of Atticus Ezra Lutter, son of Robert and Katherine Lutter, on his baptism today.

Prayers

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Audrey Alpers; family and friends of Gerry Berens; Riley Bruemmer; Ellen; Tom Hummell; Jeannine; Larry Lobash; Sandy Mobley; Frances Patch; Hayley Richardson; Tripp; family and friends of Lottie Smith; family of Christy Turner; those dealing with alcoholism.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR

Terry Adcock; Nancy Anderson; Bob Aus; Alicia Badeusz; Emily Berggren; Patricia Byous; Eleanor and Dave; Sam Gourley; Dean Haynie; Duke Hobbs; Ronnie Johnson; Peter Jordahl; Kara; Betsy Knauff; Walt Knauff; Arvid Larson; Pat Larson; Doris McGaughy; Helen Pegg; David Pierce; Jeff Puskos; Betty Staehr.

December Benevolence: River City Youth Foundation

River City Youth Foundation (RCYF) is Austin's longest running locally founded youth organization, providing programs and services for the underserved community of southeast Austin's Dove Springs. RCYF provides youth and family oriented programs focused on technology training, college and career readiness, mentoring, wellness, and community development.

October Financial Report Year-to-Date Income Statement

Revenues		Expenses		Net	(22,599)
Operating	629,684	Operating	664,408	October Benevolence Donations: San Antonio Day Respite Center = \$1,960	
Building	132,439	Building	101,163		
School	923,901	School	943,052		
Total	1,686,024	Total	1,708,62		

2022 Estimate of Giving:

As we end a second year in recovery from COVID and we look forward joyfully this Advent to God's unconditional gift of love at Jesus' birth, please prayerfully consider gifts of time, talents, and financial commitments now and for the coming year. **2021 Giving:** You'll find multiple ways to give at saintmartins.org/giving. You can also send a text to 73256 with "luther" and your gift amount.

As the Council plans next year's budget, we particularly want to support and empower the vital work of our dedicated and faithful staff. Please prayerfully complete an **estimate of giving card** by Sunday December 12. A secure digital form is available online at <https://bit.ly/3DGkuW4>. Or download, complete, and mail your estimate. Paper copies are available at Church.

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving.

Events & Announcements

This Week at St. Martin's

Sunday, December 12

9:00 am	Holy Communion
10:00 am	Faith Formation Hour; High School Meeting
10:15 am	Listening Session Follow-Up: Volunteer Connections
11:00 am	Holy Communion
12:15 pm	Family Advent Event: Supply Boxes (Parlor Courtyard)
4:00 pm	TLU Vespers

Monday, December 13

7:30 pm	Heart & Mind Gospel Study (Zoom)
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Tuesday, December 14

9:00 am	WELCA Tack & Pack
9:30 pm	Elizabeth Circle
7:00 pm	God & The Real World: Economics

Wednesday, December 15

1:00 pm	Pastor's Book Class
6:00 pm	Advent Vespers (Chapel)

Thursday, December 16

6:00 pm	High School Devotional (Zoom)
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Friday, December 17

4:00 pm	Preschool Christmas Program
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Saturday, December 18

8:30 am	Mop & Hammer Work Day
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Sunday, December 19

0:00 am	High School Fundraising Meal
9:00 am	Holy Communion
10:00 am	Faith Formation Hour
10:15 am	Listening Session Follow-Up: Future Membership
11:00 am	Holy Communion
3:30 pm	Ein Deutsches Weihnachtsfest: German Christmas Service

Toy Drive for River City Youth Foundation | Donations due TODAY, Sunday, December 12

December 18, 2021 is the River City Youth Foundation's 24th annual Merry Memories Toy Giveaway. SMLC high school students and youth are collecting gifts for babies to 15 year olds. The wishlist for boys and girls includes: bikes, sports balls, board games, dolls & action figures, and stuffed animals. Please bring items to the church by Sunday, December 12.

Baked Goods for German Christmas Service

We will be hosting a reception with baked goods following the German Christmas service on December 19! All bakers can volunteer to provide desserts by contacting Abby Adams at adams.abigail.m@gmail.com. Thank you for helping us welcome the many guests who come to celebrate Christmas with us!

Listening Session Follow-Up Meetings

Our listening session follow-up continues between worship services during Advent as we ideate on focus areas to “Love, Share, and Serve Boldly.” This concrete definition of our mission will guide future decision making about how best to use our people, money, and resources to serve God in downtown Austin. Join in room 230 or using the Come as You Are class Zoom link from 10:15-10:45 each Sunday. Dec 5: Faith Formation. Dec 12: Connecting volunteers to opportunities. Dec 19: Future membership. Find the Zoom link on the event calendar listings at saintmartins.org/events.

Advent for Families at St. Martin’s | Sundays in Advent

Starting on November 28th we will be doing our Advent for Families every Sunday through Advent following the second service! This includes: candle making, an art class lead by Stern Hatcher, an Advent calendar to donate to our homeless community, and a fundraising meal hosted by our High School students! Come celebrate the holiday season with us this year!

Christmas in the Park: The Nativity Story | Saturday, December 18th, 6:00 pm

Let’s get into the holiday spirit! This year at St. Martin’s we are having Christmas in the Park on December 18th from 6—8pm, an event for all families to learn about the story of the birth of Jesus and to join in on a fun evening together! Cason needs your help for this! He will be setting up a table for anyone or groups of people to run tables to fully tell the story of the nativity!

Christmas Poinsettias

The Flower Guild will be selling poinsettias this Sunday and will continue sales through Sunday, December 19. The cost is \$15.00 each. Poinsettias may be purchased at church on Sunday mornings and online. To purchase online, go to saintmartins.org and click the "Give" button in the upper right hand corner, select "Online Giving," click "Fund" on the Giving page, and click the "Memo" line to complete dedications for the poinsettias.

Las Posadas at Dove Springs | Wednesday, December 22, 2021, 6:30 pm

Join our friends in Dove Springs for a traditional Las Posadas (the Inns) on December 22, 6:30-8:30pm at the River City Youth Foundation, 5209 S. Pleasant Valley Road, Austin, TX. We will be taking the bus from the church at 6PM or you can meet us there. Please RSVP to Pastor Ellen for space on the bus.