

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An Advent Meditation on Las Posadas at the Episcopal Church of St. Martin's
Celebrate the Advent Season with a 400-year-old Mexican tradition and carols

On Sunday, December 18 at 4pm, the Episcopal Church of St. Martin in Davis will present an Advent Lessons and Carols service, "The Journey to Bethlehem: An Advent Meditation on Las Posadas." This short service will be followed at 5pm by a "Posada," or re-enactment of Joseph and Mary's search for a place to stay.

Advent Lessons and Carols is a beloved Episcopalian tradition, in which scripture readings are interspersed with festive music and carol singing. "Las Posadas" is a venerable Mexican custom, celebrating the journey of the Holy Family to Bethlehem.

The Lessons and Carols meditation will feature music of Spain and the Colonial era in America, sung in Spanish, Quechua, Nahuatl, and Mono Paiute. Songs include:

- "Hanac Pachap Cussicuinin" —first published in Peru in 1631, this anonymous hymn in Quechua praises the Virgin Mary using metaphors of nature drawn from the Quechua culture.
- "Xicochi conetzintle" —a Christmas lullaby to the Christ child, composed in Nahuatl by Gaspar Fernandes in the early 17th century. Fernandes was well-known as a singer and organist in Guatemala and Mexico.
- "Riu Riu Chiu" —a Christmas villancico in the Catalonian tradition by Mateo Flecha el Viejo, who died in 1553.

The St. Martin's choir will be joined by instrumentalists playing recorders, shawms, percussion, and guitar.

Those who wish to remain may stay for the 5pm "Posada," following "Mary" and "Joseph" as they sing and stroll an illuminated path, re-enacting their search for hospitality. When they are finally welcomed inside, all the travelers will be met with a party featuring a piñata, candy, pan dulce, hot chocolate, and an old-fashioned carol-sing.

The Lessons and Carols portion of the service will be available in person and online. Las Posadas will be available to attend in person only.

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin is located at 640 Hawthorn Lane, Davis, CA 95616. For more information on this event, please see St. Martin's website at www.churchofstmartin.org.

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