

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARY'S

Christmas Eve Half past Five in the afternoon

If this is your first time at St. Mary's, welcome! We're so glad you're here. We invite you to say the words in bold throughout the service. Restrooms are in the building across the breezeway, just inside the door on the left. If you would like to learn more about us, fill out a Connect card and place it in the wooden box in the foyer. Leave your mobile number

if you'd like a text from Mother Hannah. Join us after the service for hot beverages and to share some Christmas cheer!

Welcome/Bienvenidos

Please stand as you are able.

Land Acknowledgement: As we gather tonight to celebrate the birth of Christ, we acknowledge that we are on the ancestral lands of the Kumeyaay people, who have lived in harmony with this land for thousands of years. We honor their stewardship of this sacred place and their ongoing presence here. May we walk with respect and gratitude, seeking justice and reconciliation in our relationships with the First Peoples of this land.

Opening Hymn/Himno de Apertura

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her king
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy*

Joy to the World

*He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love
And wonders, wonders, of his love*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her king
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing, and
heaven, and heaven, and nature sing*

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God. **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. *(pause for silent prayer)* O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Please be seated. Pueden sentarse.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

For four weeks we have been waiting and watching as the light has grown from one candle, to two, to three, to four. Tonight we light the Christ candle intentionally. **Tonight, we celebrate the hope, peace, joy, and love we find wherever Christ is present. Loving God, prepare our hearts to be transformed by You, that we may walk in Christ. Amen.**



The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the prophet Isaiah/Lectura de profeta Isaias (9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child is born to us, an heir is given us, upon whose shoulders dominion will rest. This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God, Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace. This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end, with David's throne and realm sustained with justice and fairness, now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Escuchamos lo que el Espíritu dice a la Gente de Dios. **Demos gracias a Dios.**

The Epistle

A Reading from Titus

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Escuchamos lo que el Espíritu dice a la Gente de Dios. **Demos gracias a Dios.**

The Gospel/El Evangelio

A Night Like No Other: No-Rehearsal Pageant

As the story unfolds, please join us in singing the following carols. A medida que se desarrolla la historia, únete a nosotros para cantar los siguientes villancicos.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

What Child is This

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

The First Noel

*The first Noel, the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,

*field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

O Come All Ye Faithful

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Christmas Reflection

The Rev. Hannah Wilder

A period of silence follows the reflection.

The Prayers of the People / Las oraciones del pueblo

In joy and thanksgiving at Christ's birth, let us sing to the Lord a new song,
On earth peace, good will to all.

We pray for all faithful people, for all welcome messengers of good news. Let us sing to the Lord a new song, **On earth peace, good will to all.**

For the nations and their rulers, for corporations and their executives, for anyone with power over the lives of others. Let us sing to the Lord a new song, **On earth peace, good will to all.**

For those who defend the helpless. For those who strive for justice. For those who work for peace. For all the world, and all who live in it. Let us sing to the Lord a new song,
On earth peace, good will to all.

For anyone suffering, sick, alone, afraid, or in any kind of trouble. We pray especially for those we now name (*You're invited to say the names of loved ones either silently or aloud.*) Let us sing to the Lord a new song, **On earth peace, good will to all.**

For our community, for friends, neighbors, and family, near and far, especially those we now name (*You're invited to say the names of loved ones either silently or aloud.*) Let us sing to the Lord a new song,
On earth peace, good will to all.

We pray this holy night for those who have died. We pray especially for those who have died from senseless gun violence, those who have died while experiencing homelessness, and those we now name (*You're invited to say the names of loved ones either silently or aloud.*)
Let us sing to the Lord a new song, **On earth peace, good will to all.**

The Priest: Your love, O God, is forever and ever. Before the eyes of all the nations you sent your Son, the exact imprint of love itself, to be our salvation. With the shepherds in the fields, let us go now to Bethlehem, there to find Christ in our hearts, and in the world. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the newborn Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

Feel free to greet one another with whatever sign of peace (handshake, fist bump, nod, etc.) is comfortable for you.

Announcements & Offertory

Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

We rely on donations from generous people to sustain our ministry here. We do not receive funding from the Diocese, or from government grants. If you would like to make a gift to St. Mary's, scan the QR code, text "Give" to 877-742-9191 or place cash or check made out to "St. Mary's" in the offering plate. All gifts are 100% tax deductible. Thank you!



When ushers bring the offering to the front, we stand and sing the Doxology:

Musical notation for the Doxology, consisting of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow praise God all cre-a-tures here be-low praise
God a bove ye hea-ven-ly hosts praise Fa-ther Son and Ho-ly Ghost A-men

Offertory Music

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O
night, O holy night, O night divine!*

O Holy Night

*Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from far, distant lands.
The king of kings in whom the world rejoices,
In all our trials born to be our friend.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O
night, O holy night, O night divine!*

The Eucharistic Prayer

Eucharist means “thanksgiving.” In this meal we give thanks for all that God has done for us, and we offer ourselves back to God. As you are able, please stand.

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.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. 2x Hosanna, in the highest, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. 2x

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: **“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: **“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”**

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory and praise, forever and ever. **AMEN!**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

In our congregation, people like to hold hands as we sing The Lord’s Prayer. You are welcome to join, or not, by simply saying, “No thank you.” We hope you feel comfortable either way.

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 all that is evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept as the bread is broken.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Invitation

This is the table, not of the church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little; You who have been here often, and you who have not been for a long time, or ever before; You who have tried to follow, and you who have failed; Come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ, and he invites you to meet him here.

Please be seated. Wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith you are welcome to receive the bread and wine made holy. The minister will dip the bread into the wine and then place it into your cupped hands. Say "gluten free" if you need gluten free. Cross yourself to receive a touch-free blessing instead of communion.

Pueden sentarse. Dondequiera que te encuentres en el camino de la fe, eres bienvenido a recibir el pan y el vino santificados. El ministro mojará el pan en el vino y luego lo colocará en sus manos ahuecadas. Diga "sin gluten" si necesita gluten. Persigúete para recibir una bendición sin contacto en lugar de la comunión.

Christmas Flower Donations

Thank you to these kind people who have beautified our sanctuary for worship on this holy night.

Anonymous

Melissa & Lewis Bloch in honor of our mothers, Allithea and Alice, on Earth and in Heaven

The Rev. Hannah & Dr. Kathy Wilder, in thanksgiving for St. Mary's

Communion Music

*1- Under the stars one holy night,
a little babe was born.
Over his head the stars shone bright,
and glistened like the morn.
And wise men came from far away,
and shepherds wandered where he lay,
Upon his lowly bed of hay,
under the stars one night.*

Under the Stars

By The Rev. Jim Eron

*2- Under the stars this happy night,
we wait for him once more.
And seem to see the wondrous sight,
the shepherds saw of yore.
Oh, baby, born in Bethlehem,
oh come to us as you came to them,
And crown us with love's diadem,
under the stars tonight*

The Cherry Tree Carol

*When Joseph was an old man, an old man was he,
He married the Virgin Mary, the Queen of Galilee.
(x2)*

*Joseph and Mary walked through
an orchard green,
There were berries and cherries,
as thick as might be seen. (x2)*

*And Mary spoke to Joseph so meek and so mild:
"Joseph, gather me some cherries,
for I am with child." (x2)*

*Then Joseph flew in anger. In anger flew he,
"Let the father of the baby
gather cherries for thee!" (x2)*

*Then up spoke baby Jesus from in Mary's womb.
"Bend down the tallest branch
that my mother might have some." (x2)*

*And bent town the tallest tree
til it touched Mary's hand,
Cried she, "O look thou, Joseph.
I have cherries by command." (x2)*

*When Joseph was an old man, an old man was he,
He married the Virgin Mary, the Queen of Galilee.
(x2)*

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*1 - Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for, with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.
2 - King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.*

*3 - Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.*

*4 - At His feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord Most High!"*

The Post Communion Prayer

During this prayer, volunteers light handheld candles. Please light the candle of the person sitting next to you in your row. The unlit candle should tip to the lit candle.

Let us pray. Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. 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 Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you this day and always. **Amen.**

Please follow the ushers as we process outside for this final song. Siga a los ujieres y campaneros mientras avanzamos afuera para cantar esta canción final.

Closing Hymn/Himno de clausura

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace*

*Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,*

Silent Night

*Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born*

*Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth*

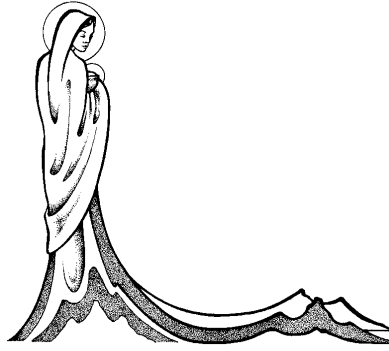
Repeat first verse

The Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God!

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St. Mary's in-the-Valley Episcopal Church

stmarysramona.org

Church Office: (760) 789-0890

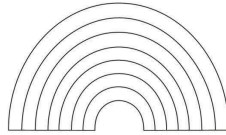
Vicar: The Rev. Hannah Wilder

hello@stmarysramona.org

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**we are an LGBTQIA+
affirming church!**

Announcements

Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 25, 10:00am - Come back in your pajamas and bring your favorite gift. We will bless them as we worship on this most holy day.

Advent Anarchism: A Book Study on Hope, Power, and Liberation

We're discussing *Jesus and the Abolitionists: How Anarchist Christianity Empowers the People* by Terry Stokes on Zoom, 7-8pm. Our study concludes on Tuesday, December 30. Anarchist Consultant Gabe Eisen will be with us.

New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk

Wednesday, December 31, 7:00pm - Walk our outdoor labyrinth by candlelight with guitar music. Listen for God's intention in your life for 2026, and begin the new year in a meditative way.

Stay Connected

If you'd like to receive news and event information from St. Mary's, please fill out a Connect Card in the entryway or email hello@stmarysramona.org to ask a question, tell a story, ask to be put on our newsletter list, or tell a joke!

Become a Member of St. Mary's

If you're curious about church, or what it means to have a spiritual home, make an appointment to talk with Mother Hannah. She would love to get to know you, and hear about your spiritual journey. Email her: vicar@stmarysramona.org.

Godly Play Every Sunday

Kids are welcome at St. Mary's. Our curriculum includes a Bible story followed by an invitation to wonder and respond through art. Questions? Contact Laura Myers: lemyers123@gmail.com.

Ways to Connect at St. Mary's

The Thursday Table - On the first and third Thursday of each month, we serve a hot meal for any member of the community, no questions asked. Join our team of volunteers prepping, serving food, dining with our guests, and washing up. Contact Laurie Collins for info: hello@stmarysramona.org.

Prayers & Squares - Our quilters and sewers make prayer blankets for people experiencing difficulty. We tie our love and prayers into the fabric, which surrounds them as they heal. Sewing experience not required. 10am - 1pm Tuesdays. Contact Sandy Bedard: sandybedard@yahoo.com.

Welcome Team - Join this fun group of folks who serve as greeters, ushers, and hospitality providers! This is an easy way to get to know people. Email Deb Lewallen: deborahslewallen@gmail.com.

Altar Guild - Keepers of the sacred vessels and linens, the altar guild passes down tradition, knowledge and wisdom through the years. If you like the idea of preparing space for worship, consider joining this special guild. Email Connie Bley: conniebley@gmail.com.

Episcopal Church Women - We offer friendship, fellowship and social events. People of all genders and identities welcome. Contact Laura for info: lemyers123@gmail.com

Outreach - We love our neighbors by providing for their needs in the form of shoes, socks, underwear, jackets, backpacks, school supplies and Christmas gifts for local children, hot meals for people experiencing homelessness, and other ways throughout the year. Contact Dawn Kezer: dmkezer@gmail.com or Connie Bley: connie@stmarysramona.org.

Acolytes - Our younger members are especially encouraged to join our acolytes. These important folks set the table for our remembrance of Christ's life, death and resurrection. This is a good way to grow leadership skills, and connect with others at church. Email Cathy Knowles: csknowles725@gmail.com.

SCRIP - Purchase Scrip and support our church FOR FREE - *it's miraculous!* It requires a little planning, but it's no cost to you. Make regular purchases on gas, gifts, groceries, clothing, dining out, and more. Learn more and purchase Scrip by contacting Gail Voorhes, 760-271-7630, or Janice Backholer: 619-890-0169.



The Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ
The Rev'd Sarah West | visiolectio.com