

**Music Box**

— ADVENT IV — DECEMBER 18, 2011 —

**Carmen Martin, mezzo-soprano**  
**Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano and organ**

Christkind (The Christ-Child).....Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)  
What Songs Were Sung..... John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)  
Maria Wiegened  
    (The Virgin's Slumber Song).....Max Reger (1873-1916)  
A Christmas Carol..... Ned Rorem (b. 1923)  
In the Bleak Midwinter .....Gustav Holst (1874-1934)  
O Jesulein Zart .... Kölner Gesangbuch 1623, arr. by Gerhard Track

Bereite Dich, Zion,  
    from Christmas Oratorio.....J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

“Prepare thyself, Zion, with tender emotion,  
the Fairest, the Dearest to welcome to thee.  
With what yearning must thy heart today be burning,  
welcome thy dear one with loving devotion.”

I Noel sur les jeux d'anches ..... Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

What can I give Him  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring Him a lamb,  
If I were a wise man,  
I would do my part.  
Yet what I can, I give Him,  
Give my heart.

—Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)



**Painless and Economical**

If you use the internet, why don't you have the weekly newsletter sent to you via email? It is fast, easy and saves the church money — here's what to do: Send an email to the office at [ctf@mbay.net](mailto:ctf@mbay.net) and ask Kay to put you in the list. You will receive it early every week!

**Church in the Forest**  
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# Church in the Forest

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email: citf@mbay.net • www.churchintheforest.org

Monday morning, December 12, 2011

Dear members and friends,

## Journey into Exile

*The Babylonians carried the rest of the people into exile*

—2 Kings 25:11

Can you imagine what it would be like to live in exile—your homeland ruined, cities leveled, farms destroyed, groves mowed under, vineyards uprooted orchards wiped out your young men pressed into service by the invading army, your women raped, your holdings pillaged, and the boldest and bravest of the survivors marched off into exile 500 miles away?

Would you ever see your homeland again? Would you even want to return, knowing how the invading army had reached the land virtually uninhabitable through its “scorched earth” conquest?

That is what the people of God faced in 586 BC when the empowered Babylonian army successfully conquered Judah. It was a devastating defeat, everything was lost, and the people wondered if God cared anymore.

But God was concerned. God was present in their midst and empowered a faithful remnant to keep hope alive. Ultimately, they were freed and able to return and rebuild their cities and farms and even the temple.

At times we may feel cut off from familiar surroundings as well as close friends and family. Know this: as God was with those in exile of old, so God will never leave you.

Three questions for us to think about:

- Have you ever felt cut off?
- How did God strengthen you?
- How can you reach out to the lonely and dispossessed?

*Prayer: for the week:*

*Thanks and praise to you, Lord God, for Jesus, Mary's Son, our brother, friend, Savior, and guide through life. Amen.*

See you in church

  
William B. Rolland

## POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

It's that time of year again! Please use this form to order a Poinsettia for our Christmas decorations. The cost is \$10 per plant and you may order more than one. Please fill out the order form below and return it with the appropriate amount. Donor:

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In Memory of/ In Celebration of/ or Thanksgiving for (please circle):

\_\_\_\_\_

## Calendar

**Sunday, December 18, 2011 — Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**8:30 AM Bible Study with the Rev. Charles Anker.** The Triumphant Patience James 5: 10-11; The Needlessness and the Folly of Oaths, James 5:12 and following. No Bible Study on December 25 or January 1; (resumes 1/8/12)

**9:15 AM Music Prelude**

**9:30 AM Morning Prayer**

**Passages** 2 Samuel 7: 1-9; Psalm 89: 1-6; Luke 1: 26-38

**Lector** Theo Fowler

**Crucifer** Vicki Spranza

**Flowers** Linda Banner

**Cookies** Nancy Reiley and Linda Banner

**Altar Care** Kathryn Lawrence Hicks

**Ushers** Chuck and Diane Elliott

**Sermon** the Rev. Dr. William B. Rolland

**Title** A Preposition You Can't Refuse

**Saturday, December 24, 2011, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 7:00 and 9:30 pm with music prelude with Wildcoast Brass one-half hour earlier**

**Sunday, December 25, 2011, Christmas Day service at the usual 9:30 am**

**Sunday, January 1, 2012, First Sunday of the New Year, Holy Communion, and Charles Anker preaching.**

**Sunday, January 8, 2012, Burning of the Greens at Bird Rock/Fanshell Beach at 4:30 pm —weather permitting!**