

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

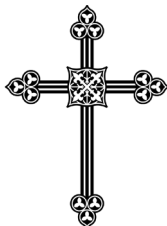
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*January 10, 2021*



## OUR MISSION

*To bring by the power of the Holy Spirit as many people as possible to know, love, and serve God as revealed through Jesus Christ; and to be transformed into spiritually renewed disciples of Jesus who know, love and serve one another and the world.*



**ST. MARTIN'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## FROM THE RECTOR

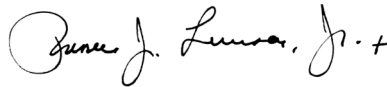
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IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD,  
JESUS CHRIST, WELCOME.

Jesus' first words to His earliest disciples were very simple, *"Come, follow Me..."* (Matthew 4:19) It was a gentle invitation to take seriously the wonderful journey of faith found in Christ. For more than 2,000 years, people of all ages have responded to that invitation through a personal decision to follow Jesus Christ in a community of prayer, study and service. St. Martin's is just such a place.

St. Martin's is a member Church in the Diocese of Texas, The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and the greater worldwide Anglican Communion consisting of more than 77 million people. Our Parish Church considers it a tremendous honor to be a place where men, women, youth and children can grow in their personal relationship with our Lord, come to know and use their own spiritual gifts, and discover a personal ministry to be expressed both in the Church, the greater Houston area and beyond.

I want to personally invite you to participate in our worship services and as many of our activities and ministries as your own commitments and time will allow.



*The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr., Rector*

### ***Prayers Before Worship***

O Lord, we thank You that You have called us as members of Your family into this beautiful house of God. Grant that here we may feel Your presence and the beauty of Your peace, and that, as we return to our homes and work, we may sense Your guiding hand and loving care and be used in the service of our neighbors, our nation and the world, and all You send our way, through Him Who came not to condemn the world but to save it, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your provision for our church family, especially the resources we need to expand and develop our church campus in order to further the work of Your Gospel in this place. Give us strength and grace as the construction takes place, that it would go as You will, for Your purposes and Your kingdom. Bless and keep safe all those who labor on our behalf. All this we ask through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***





# Frequently Asked Questions

## **How do I register for the next in-person service?**

Registration opens at 9 a.m. on Monday for all in-person services for that week. To register for the Wednesday, Sunday or The Family Table services, visit at [bit.ly/smecworshipsvp](https://bit.ly/smecworshipsvp) or call 713-621-3040.

## **What do I do when I arrive?**

Please check in when you arrive.

- Seating is on a first come, first serve basis. When seated, use the six feet signs in the pews to social distance yourself from the people sitting next to you. Ushers are available to assist if needed.
- Doors to The Church open at 11:20 a.m. for the Wednesday service.
- Doors to The Church open at 9:20 a.m. for the Sunday service.
- Doors to Bagby Parish Hall open at 8:45 a.m. for The Family Table service.
- Doors close 5 minutes before the service starts. We appreciate your understanding and assistance in keeping on schedule.

## **What if my plans changed and I cannot attend?**

Please cancel your reservation to allow others the opportunity to have your seat. The link to cancel can be found in your confirmation email. If the number of people in your reservation changes:

- For The Church, please contact Kathy Johnson at 713-985-3834.
- For The Family Table, please contact Beth Ollenburger at 713-830-4146.

## **Will childcare be available?**

Currently child care is available for Sunday in-person worship only. *Availability is limited.* For additional information and to register, visit [bit.ly/smecworshipsvp](https://bit.ly/smecworshipsvp) or contact Holli Kight at 713-985-3816 or [hkight@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:hkight@stmartinsepiscopal.org).

## **Will I be able to use the Bibles and/or Books of Common Prayer that are in the pew racks?**

No. All materials, including hymnals and Books of Common Prayer, have been removed for your safety. All service information will be the worship bulletin. You are welcome to bring your own Book of Common Prayer or Bible to use.

## **Will valet parking be available?**

While valet parking is unavailable at this time, family members may drop off others under porte cochères.

## **Are services available online?**

Yes, we will continue to live stream our services on YouTube and Facebook.

## **Now that we have reopened for worship, has St. Martin's campus also reopened?**

Essential staff continue to work on campus as needed, but the campus remains closed.

- Café St. Martin's Curbside is available for lunch Monday–Friday. The menu and instructions for ordering and pick-up are available at [stmartinsepiscopal.org/cafe-st-martins](https://stmartinsepiscopal.org/cafe-st-martins). Please contact Chrissy Kana at [cafe@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:cafe@stmartinsepiscopal.org) for further questions.





# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT **ST. MARTIN'S**

JANUARY 10–16

**ADULTS**

**SUNDAY, JAN. 10**

## **Basic Bible Study with the Rev. Alex Graham III**

*"Big Beliefs for Real Life: Journeying from 'Creation to New Creation'"*

Distributed in the morning via email with links to Facebook and YouTube



This series will take us through big beliefs of faith, using the book *Café Theology* to consider the big story of God and how it affects our smaller stories of faith. We know how to "say our prayers," but we do we know how to hear from God? Wrestle with God? Abide in God? This series will dig deeper into four aspects of prayer.

## **Family Life Class with the Rev. Sharron Cox**

*"Alpha for Families"*

Distributed in the morning via email with links to Facebook and YouTube



How do we get talking about big questions of faith within our families? Have you ever thought about why we are here? Why do we pray? What about the Spirit? And how do we discuss these things with our middle schoolers or teens? This fall we're going to be doing the Alpha Course which looks at some of these big faith questions. Each week, we'll have a different topic covered by a different cleric with questions you can discuss within your families. This series will ground in the basics of the Christian faith and open up conversation within your home.

## **Seekers**

Seekers will be joining Basic Bible Study this spring.



**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13**

**St. Martin's 20s & 30s**

*"The Return of the King: A Study of Revelation"*

7:30 p.m. via Zoom (ID: 986 960 5785)



Many people think that the Book of Revelation is hard to understand; it is filled with strange, dazzling imagery that can be confusing to decipher. However, the Book of Revelation is extremely important for us today as it offers the clearest picture of God's ultimate purpose for our world. Join us on Wednesday nights as we explore the teachings of this often misunderstood book.

For more information about Adult Christian Education,  
email Katwana Coleman at [kcoleman@stmartinespiscopal.org](mailto:kcoleman@stmartinespiscopal.org).

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**SUNDAY, JAN. 10**

**Children's Sunday School**



Children's Ministry has brand-new lessons, curriculum and content for both preschool and elementary school. We'll be sending out weekly emails with links to virtual Sunday school videos and parent leader guides.



For more information about Children's Ministry,  
email Holli Kight at [hkight@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:hkight@stmartinsepiscopal.org).

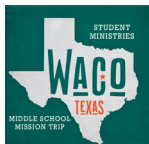


# 7-1-7 STUDENTS

**SUNDAY, JAN. 10**

## **Summer Missions Information Meeting**

4:30 p.m. via Zoom (ID: 991 5933 2674 | Passcode: 717student)



As part of Missions Week at St. Martin's, Student Ministries is hosting this meeting to share information on our summer missions. We will discuss costs, registration deadlines, accommodations, service projects and the safety protocols put in place by our team and our mission partners.



***The deadline to register for summer mission trips is Sunday, Feb. 28.***

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13**

## **Life Groups**

Wednesdays through May 5 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Middle School ID: #949 5175 4882

High School ID: #962 9273 1076

Life Groups break out by groups for a time of study and discussion on biblical perspectives that guide our lives today. Our spring schedule is as follows:



- Jan. 13: Like Me series
- Feb. 3: More to the Story series
- March 3: Good for You series
- March 24: Afterlife series
- April 14: Invisible series

For more information about 7-1-7 Students and to receive Zoom passcodes, email Student Ministries at [students@stmartinsepiscope.org](mailto:students@stmartinsepiscope.org).



# HOLY EUCHARIST

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VOLUNTARY ..... “Sonata”

Felix Mendelssohn

*Dr. David Henning, Director of Music and Parish Organist*

*All stand following the greeting.*

*Begin on page 323 of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP)*

**Celebrant:** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God, unto 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 thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY *(BCP p. 214)*

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And with thy spirit.**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray. *(kneel)*

*The Celebrant says the Collect*

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



# HYMN 128 (vs. 1 and 5).....“We Three Kings”

*Annamarie Zmolek, Christine Mahaffey, Patrick Perez, Joel Williams,  
Jan Cornelius LeClair, and Ben LeClair  
St. Martin's Parish Choir*



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing  
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.  
4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



*Refrain*

O star of won - der, star of night,  
 star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,  
 still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820–1891), alt.; Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820–1891).

## THE LESSON ..... Genesis 1:1–5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

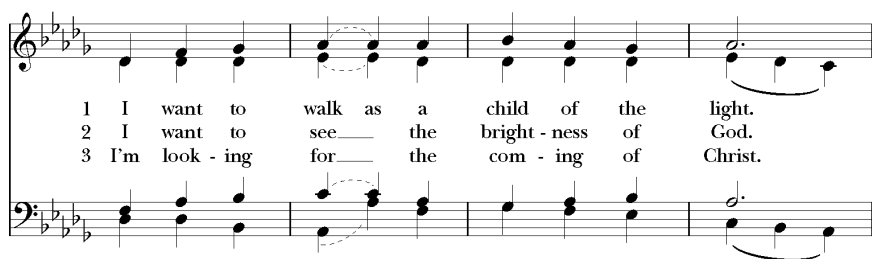
**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

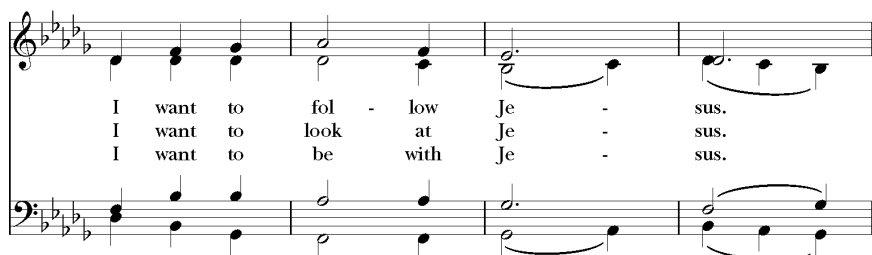
*All stand.*



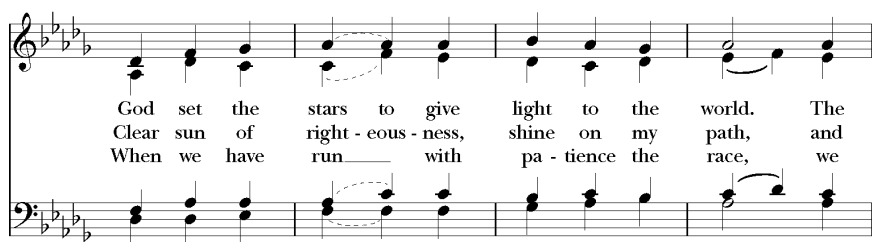
# HYMN 490 (vs. 1)... "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"



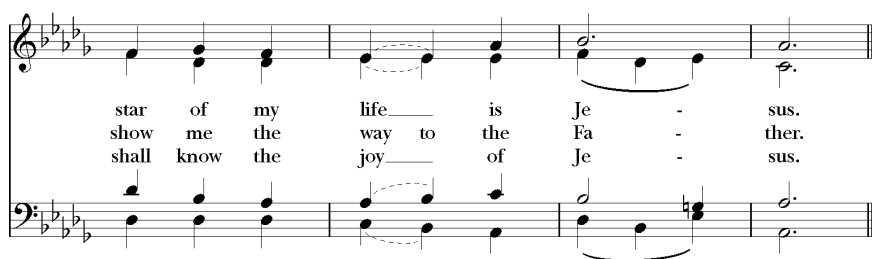
1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
 2 I want to see the bright - ness of God.  
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
 I want to look at Je - sus.  
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
 Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path,  
 When we have run with pa - tience the race, and we



star of my life is Je - sus.  
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.



*Refrain*

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God.

*a tempo*

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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Deacon:       The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
                  according to Mark.

People:       **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

**THE GOSPEL** ..... Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Deacon:       The Gospel of the Lord.

People:       **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**



# HYMN 490 (vs. 3)... "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
 2 I want to see the bright - ness of God.  
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
 I want to look at Je - sus.  
 I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
 Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and  
 When we have run with pa - tience the race, we

star of my life is Je - sus.  
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.



*Refrain*

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. *rit.*

*a tempo*

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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*Please be seated.*

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THE SERMON ..... "Let There Be..."  
*The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.*

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## THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT *(BCP p. 304) (stand)*

**Celebrant:** Do you believe in God the Father?

**People:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**Celebrant:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People:** **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our  
Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy  
Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and  
the dead.**

**Celebrant:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People:** **I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Celebrant:** Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and  
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the  
prayers?

**People:** **I will, with God's help.**

**Celebrant:** Will you persevere in resisting evil, and,  
whenever you fall into sin, repent and return  
to the Lord?

**People:** **I will, with God's help.**

**Celebrant:** Will you proclaim by word and example the  
Good News of God in Christ?



**People:** I will, with God's help.

**Celebrant:** Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons,  
loving your neighbor as yourself?

**People:** I will, with God's help.

**Celebrant:** Will you strive for justice and peace among all  
people, and respect the dignity of every human  
being?

**People:** I will, with God's help.

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (*BCP p. 387,  
Form III*) (*kneel*)

*Minister and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and  
humbly serve thee;

**That thy Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for our Anglican Communion; for the Archbishop  
of Canterbury, Justin; for our Presiding Bishop, Michael;  
for our Bishops, Andy, Jeff, Kai and Hector; for all bishops,  
priests and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of thy Word  
and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the  
nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do thy will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in thy sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief  
or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest;

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**



We praise thee for thy saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in thy heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

For Donald, our President, Joe, our President-elect, Greg, our Governor, Sylvester, our Mayor and the Congress and the Courts; for all who serve in our armed forces and their families; we pray for peace throughout the world, and especially in the Middle East; and we pray for the victims of terror attacks; and we remember before you, and pray for the protection of our Christian brothers and sisters who face danger or persecution for their faith; and we pray for victims of all natural disasters. We pray for the safety of all law enforcement agents, firefighters, paramedics and all first responders who provide security and protection to the citizens they serve. We continue to pray for the many people who have contracted the coronavirus; for those in isolation, those who have lost their job or their business, and for all those in our communities involved in ministering to the sick, especially for all health care workers; and we pray for those in the hospitals; and those for whom our prayers have been requested\_\_; and for those on our Continuing Prayer List; and for all the blessings of this life, especially those remembered today with Altar flowers\_\_; and we remember before you the departed especially\_\_; we give thanks for their lives and pray for their loved ones left behind.

I invite your own prayers and intercessions.

*A period of silence, during which people may add their own petitions quietly or in the privacy of their hearts.*

*Celebrant adds a concluding Collect (BCP p. 394)*

Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



*Minister says*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Minister and People (BCP p. 331)*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*Priest stands and says (BCP p. 332)*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**T H E P E A C E** *(stand)*

**Celebrant:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** **And with thy spirit.**

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**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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*Please be seated.*



# REOPENING MONDAY, JAN. 11



**Sundays**  
**9 a.m.–noon**

**Monday through Friday**  
**10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

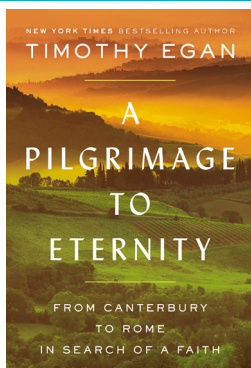
**PRIVATE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE.**

Contact St. Martin's Gift Shoppe at  
[giftshoppe@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:giftshoppe@stmartinsepiscopal.org) or  
713-985-3840 to schedule a private appointment.

Jewelry • Women's Clothing • Hostess Gifts • Handbags  
Children's Items • Bibles, Devotionals and Prayer Books



## DAY GROUP



**12:30–2 p.m. | Wednesday, Jan. 13**  
**Zoom ID: 972 7924 7164 | Passcode: 801112**

The Faith in Literature group explores, discusses and makes relevant connections between faith and works of fiction, past and present. While operating within the framework of Christian theology, we seek to ascertain in our reading how all good literature, if even by its omission, deals with and reflects themes of faith.

**For more information, contact Katwana Coleman at 713-830-4110  
or [kcoleman@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:kcoleman@stmartinsepiscopal.org).**



# MEN of ST. MARTIN'S

## THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY AND SPEAKER SERIES



**JANUARY 14 • 7 A.M. • VIA ZOOM**

[bit.ly/mosm20\\_21](https://bit.ly/mosm20_21) Passcode: 533046

**GUEST SPEAKER: Mike Rome**

*Author, Mastering Your Pain*

Reservations are not required. For more information, contact the Rev. Chad Martin at 713-985-3842 or [cmartin@stmartinseiscopal.org](mailto:cmartin@stmartinseiscopal.org).

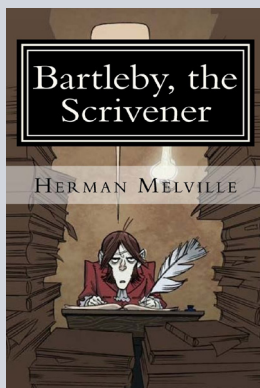


## EVENING GROUP

**7–8:30 p.m. | Tuesday, Jan. 19**

**Zoom ID: 939 4938 1075**

**Passcode: 672036**



The Faith in Literature group explores, discusses and makes relevant connections between faith and works of fiction, past and present. While operating within the framework of Christian theology, we seek to ascertain in our reading how all good literature, if even by its omission, deals with and reflects themes of faith.

**For more information, contact Katwana Coleman at 713-830-4110  
or [kcoleman@stmartinseiscopal.org](mailto:kcoleman@stmartinseiscopal.org).**



# The Moms' Group

*The Moms' Group continues  
virtually this spring with Zoom.*

*All moms of infants through 12th graders are welcome!*

## Spring Plans: Let's "Re-Zoom!"

Wednesday, Jan. 20 | 9:15–10:15 a.m. | via Zoom

Join the welcoming group for its 2021 kick-off meeting with St. Martin's Vice-Rector, the Rev. Martin J. Bastian, who will lead the devotional. The group is studying Phyllis J. LePeau's *Women of the New Testament*, and this study does NOT require studying in advance, as each chapter stands alone.

All are encouraged to come as they can and as they are.

To receive Zoom links, submit prayer requests or for more information, contact  
Liz Gallien at 713-830-4139 or [lgallien@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:lgallien@stmartinsepiscopal.org).

# Café

## ST. MARTIN'S



## Café St. Martin's Curbside is open!

Place your order the day before.

Visit the menu here:

**[stmartinsepiscopal.org/cafe-st-martins](http://stmartinsepiscopal.org/cafe-st-martins)**

Pickups will be between

11:45 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through

Friday by driving through the  
porte-cochère in front of Bagby Parish Hall.

**Please do not come inside.**

Debit and credit cards accepted.

No cash payments.

Meals are \$6. Drinks are \$1.

Questions? Contact Chrissy Kana at  
[cafe@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:cafe@stmartinsepiscopal.org)  
or call 713-985-3806.



# THE *family table*

**THERE ARE NOW TWO WAYS TO ENJOY  
THE FAMILY TABLE SERVICE!**

## **IN PERSON**

9: 15 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall  
Limited childcare with advance reservation  
To register, visit [bit.ly/smecworshipsvp](https://bit.ly/smecworshipsvp)

## **ONLINE**

Join us at 8 a.m. on Sundays for The Family Table worship service on YouTube and Facebook. For links to the service, visit St. Martin's website and look for The Family Table slider at the top of the page.

## **JOIN US VIA ZOOM EVERY SUNDAY**



The Altar, our contemporary worship service for students and adults of all ages, is online every Sunday at 11:15 a.m. followed by a virtual coffee hour. Join us via Zoom!

[bit.ly/thealtarservice](https://bit.ly/thealtarservice)

Meeting ID: 972 3813 2533 | Passcode: 110154

For more information, please contact Beth Ollenburger at  
[bollenburger@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:bollenburger@stmartinsepiscopal.org).



WEEKDAY  
*Holy Eucharist*  
SERVICE

Wednesdays  
Noon | The Church

Reservations required.  
[bit.ly/smecworshipsvp](https://bit.ly/smecworshipsvp)  
Active Mondays at 9 a.m.

For more information, contact  
Beth Ollenburger at 713-830-4146  
or [bollenburger@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:bollenburger@stmartinsepiscopal.org).



ST. MARTIN'S  
*Compline*  
*Service*

Wednesdays  
8 p.m. | via Zoom



Compline Service, also known as Night Prayer or End of Day Prayer, is the final church service of the day. The service finds its roots in the 300s and is still found in the *Book of Common Prayer*, page 127.

[bit.ly/smeccomplineservice](https://bit.ly/smeccomplineservice)  
Meeting ID: 993 5602 0443 | Passcode: 275101

For more information, contact Beth  
Ollenburger at 713-830-4146 or  
[bollenburger@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:bollenburger@stmartinsepiscopal.org).



# ST. MARTIN'S IS HERE FOR YOU!

## WE MISS YOU!

## GOD LOVES YOU!

*We may not be able to meet in person right now, but we want to know if you are sick, hospitalized or need to speak with a member of the Clergy. Don't hesitate to call the church.*

### **General Questions**

Contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040.

### **Prayer Requests**

Contact the Prayer Request Line at 713-830-4124 or Cyndy Ensign at 713-985-3808 or [censign@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:censign@stmartinsepiscopal.org).

### **After Hours Emergencies**

Call 713-621-3040 and press 2 to reach the Priest on Call.

### **Death Notifications and Funerals**

Contact Cyndy Ensign at 713-985-3808 or [censign@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:censign@stmartinsepiscopal.org).

# WAYS TO GIVE



### **TEXT TO GIVE**

Text SMEC to 73256



### **ONLINE**

[stmartinsepiscopal.org/giving](http://stmartinsepiscopal.org/giving)



### **MAIL**

St. Martin's Episcopal Church  
717 Sage Road, Houston, TX 77056



### **ESTATE PLANNING**

Contact: Director of Parish  
Stewardship, Ashley Pratkan:  
[apratka@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:apratka@stmartinsepiscopal.org)  
or 346-335-8658



### **TRANSFER OF ASSETS**

Pledging and setting up a recurring gift online helps you and the church budget.

Go online today:

[stmartinsepiscopal.org/giving](http://stmartinsepiscopal.org/giving)

Please contact Accounting Supervisor,  
Debbie Hutchison  
with questions or for assistance:  
[dhutchison@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:dhutchison@stmartinsepiscopal.org)  
or 713-985-3803



## THE OFFERTORY

### ANTHEM .... "There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth" Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a Sceptre from Israel rise up. And dash in pieces Princes and Nations. How brightly beams the morning star with sudden radiance from afar, with light and comfort glowing! Thy Word, Jesus, inly feeds us, Rightly leads us, Life bestowing. Praise, oh praise such love o'erflowing!

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## AT THE PRESENTATION

### DOXOLOGY ..... *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637–1711); Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?–1561?).



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(BCP p. 340) (stand)*

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And with thy spirit.**

**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**People:** **It is meet and right so to do.**

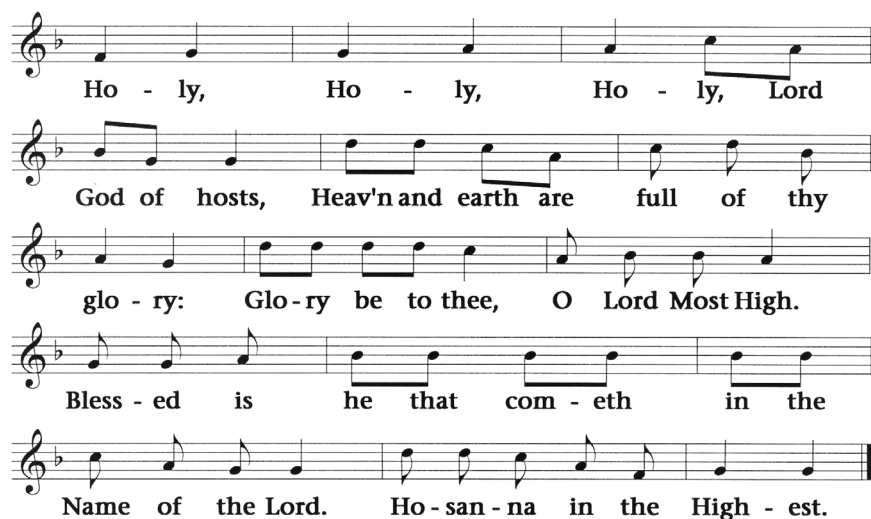
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

*Celebrant and People*



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord  
God of hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy  
glo - ry: Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Bless - ed is he that com - eth in the  
Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.

John Merbecke, 1549. Copyright © 1940, 1943, 1961. The Church Pension Fund.



*The Celebrant continues (BCP p. 341) (kneel)*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.



And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (*BCP p. 336*)

*People and Celebrant*

**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.**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*



Text: *Celtic Alleluia*, Christopher Walker; Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker; © 1985, Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, public by OCP Publications. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under LicensingOnline #U3219.



## PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS *(BCP p. 337)*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*The Celebrant says the Invitation. (BCP p. 338)*

*Please tell the priest administering Communion if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray. *(BCP p. 339)*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

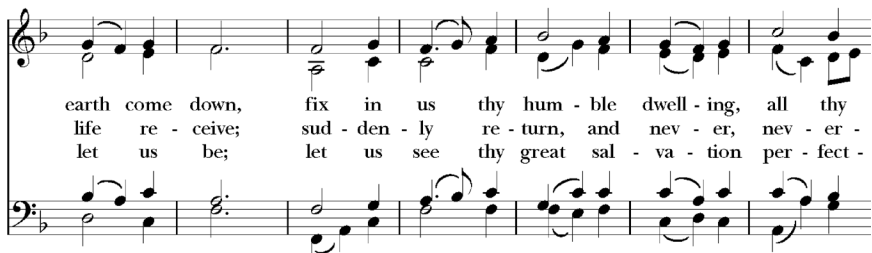
*Please be seated.*



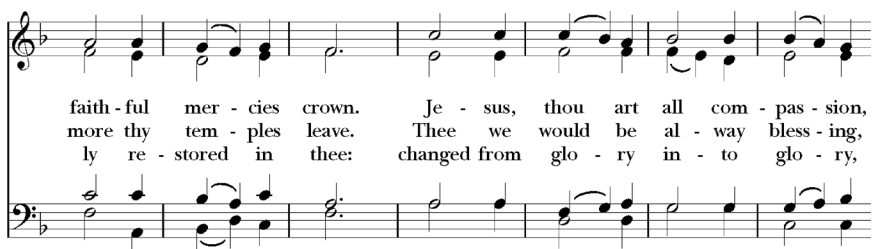
# HYMN 657 (vs. 1 and 3).....“Love Divine”



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788); Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811–1887).



# THE DISMISSAL

*A Minister says the dismissal*

**People:**       **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

# RECOGNITIONS

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## FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

On the occasion of their marriage

by Lindsay Marshall Graham and Christopher Paul Farish

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Benjamin Matthew Glass

by Mari and Bryan Glass



## SYMPATHY

December 29       Wanda Lee Dodds

December 31       Earle Plain Martin III

To mark a special occasion with an altar flower dedication, visit [bit.ly/ChurchFlowers](http://bit.ly/ChurchFlowers) or contact Barbara Piana at 713-830-4116.



## SERMON NOTES

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*“You have heard that it was said, to people long ago, ‘Do not murder,’ and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother ‘Raca’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin... But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell...”*

Matthew 5:21–22

*“...I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder...”*

II Corinthians 12:20

*“...rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips...”*

Colossians 3:8

*“Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body... With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water...”*

James 3:5–6, 9–12



## SERMON NOTES

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*“Rash words are like sword thrusts,  
But the tongue of the wise brings healing,”*

Proverbs 12:18

*“A gentle answer, turns away wrath,  
But a harsh word stirs up anger,”*

Proverbs 15:1

*“A perverse man stirs up dissension,  
and a gossip separates close friends,”*

Proverbs 16:28

*“If you do not have within you which comes from above you, you  
will soon be overcome by that which is around you.”*

John J. Morrett

*“No foul word should ever cross your lips; let your words be for  
the improvement of others, as occasions offers, and do good to  
your listeners...”*

Ephesians 4:29

Before you speak...

***Is it true?***

***Is it nice?***

***Is it necessary?***



# OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

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## SUNDAY PROGRAM STAFF

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## ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

### *Vestry Executive Committee*

Mr. Jim Hibbert, *Senior Warden*

Mr. Titus Harris III, *Junior Warden*

Mrs. Anya McInnis, *Missions Chair*

Mr. Matt Anderson, *Treasurer*

Mrs. Diane Campbell, *Clerk*

Mr. Culver Stedman, *Past Senior Warden*

Mr. Andy Harvin, *Chancellor\**

### *Vestry Members*

Mrs. Michelle Bain

Mr. Tommy Ford

Mrs. Whitney Gormley

Mrs. Casey Hedges

Mr. Matt Mogas

Mr. Robert Paddock

Mr. Bob Parkey

Mr. Gib Surles

The Hon. John Wooldridge

### *Associate Members*

The Hon. James A. Baker, III, *Special Counsel to the Vestry\**

Mr. Dale Cheesman III, *Special Counsel to the Vestry\**

Mr. George Francisco IV, *Senior Council Representative 2020–2021*

Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., *Senior Council Representative 2020–2021*

Mrs. Therese Moore, *Altar Guild President 2020–2021*

Ms. Sherrie Perkins, *ECW President 2020–2021*

Mr. Joe Lopez, *Men of St. Martin's President 2019–2021*

Mr. Ryan LaRue, *Usher Representative 2018–2021*

\*Chancellor and Special Counsel are associate positions, filled at the discretion of the Rector.



# OUR CLERGY

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**Jesus, The Christ**  
*The Head of This Church*



**The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.**  
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WE INVITE YOU TO  
KEEP THIS BOOKLET  
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