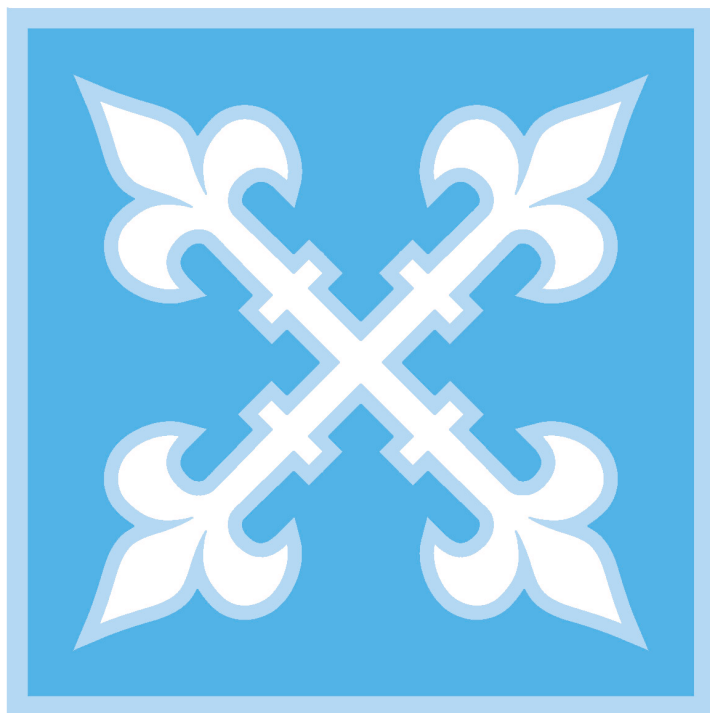


# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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*December 6, 2020*



## 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](http://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](http://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.

- St. Martin's Gift Shoppe is open for limited hours. For additional information, please call 713-985-3840 or email [giftshoppe@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:giftshoppe@stmartinsepiscopal.org).
- 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](http://stmartinsepiscopal.org/cafe-st-martins). Please contact Chrissy Kana at [ckana@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:ckana@stmartinsepiscopal.org) for further questions.



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

DECEMBER 6–12

**ADULTS**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 6**

## **Basic Bible Study with the Rev. Dr. Suse McBay**

*"What Are You Hoping For?"*

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



What are you waiting for? What are you anticipating that will 'fix' whatever feels broken right now? 2020 has, in many ways, been a test of patience and hope. Advent is also a season of waiting: we await the arrival of our long-hoped for Messiah. This series will reflect on three images of Jesus as our Messiah: He is our Divine Rescuer, Divine King and Divine Husband. Each of these depictions of our Lord offers us the real hope we have that doesn't just 'fix' things, but can transform our lives—as well as our expectations for tomorrow.

## **Family Life Class with the Rev. Jane Ferguson**

*"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 you in the basics of the Christian faith and open up conversation within your home.

**Seekers** will be joining Basic Bible Study this fall.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**SUNDAY, DEC. 6**

## 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

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9**

## Life Groups

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Middle School ID: #949 5175 4882

High School ID: #962 9273 1076



Middle school and high school students, we want you to join us Wednesday nights for Life Groups. Together, let's discuss our faith questions, go deeper into our personal relationship with Jesus and form friendships that help us to live out our faith.

For more information about 7-1-7 Students, email Student Ministries at [students@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:students@stmartinsepiscopal.org).

# HOLY EUCHARIST

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VOLUNTARY ..... “Noel”

Louis-Claude Daquin

*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:** Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

**People:** **His mercy endureth for ever.**

*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. 211)*

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

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

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

*The Celebrant says the Collect*

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# HYMN 56 (vs. 2–4).....“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.; Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811–1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937); Public Domain.

## THE LESSON .....Romans 15:4–13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name;” and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people;” and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him;” and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

**People:**           **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

# HYMN 343 (vs. 1) .....“Shepherd of Souls”

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen  
 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy  
 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not  
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the  
 word of grace, in strength of which we  
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with  
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.  
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.  
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.  
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771–1845), alt.; Music *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823–1876);  
 harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823–1876); Copyright: Music: Copyright ©  
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Deacon:       The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
                  according to Matthew.

People:       Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL ..... Matthew 3:1–12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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. Even now the axe 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. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Deacon:       The Gospel of the Lord.

People:       Praise be to thee, O Christ.

# HYMN 343 (vs. 4) ..... “Shepherd of Souls”

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen  
 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy  
 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not  
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the  
 word of grace, in strength of which we  
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with  
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.  
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.  
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.  
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771–1845), alt.; Music *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823–1876);  
 harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823–1876); Copyright: Music: Copyright ©  
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*Please be seated.*

## THE SERMON ..... “Straight to Hope” *The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.*

# THE NICENE CREED *(BCP p. 327) (stand)*

*Celebrant and People*

I believe in one God,  
    the Father Almighty,  
    maker of heaven and earth,  
    and of all things visible and invisible;  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
    the only-begotten Son of God,  
    begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
    God of God, Light of Light,  
    very God of very God,  
    begotten, not made,  
    being of one substance with the Father;  
    by whom all things were made;  
    who for us men and for our salvation  
        came down from heaven,  
    and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the  
        Virgin Mary,  
    and was made man;  
    and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
    he suffered and was buried;  
    and the third day he rose again according to  
        the Scriptures,  
    and ascended into heaven,  
    and sitteth on the right hand of the Father,  
    and he shall come again, with glory,  
        to judge both the quick and the dead;  
    whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
    who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
    who with the Father and the Son together  
        is worshiped  
        and glorified;  
    who spake by the Prophets.



And I believe one holy catholic and  
apostolic Church;  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission  
of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP p. 388,  
Form IV) (kneel) (responsively)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess thy Name may  
be united in thy truth, live together in thy love, and reveal  
thy glory to the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in thy mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the  
ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another  
and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in thy mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as thy own creation, that  
we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and  
to thy honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in thy mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, especially  
\_\_\_, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one  
another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in thy mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those in the hospital \_\_; and give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of thy salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in thy mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to thy mercy all who have died, that thy will for them may be fulfilled, especially \_\_; and we give thanks for their lives and pray for their loved ones left behind.

*Silence*

Lord, in thy mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

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 for those on our Continuing Prayer List; and for all the blessings of this life, especially those remembered today with Altar flowers\_\_.

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)*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of thy people, and strengthen us to do thy will; 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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**W E L C O M E A N D A N N O U N C E M E N T S**

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*Please be seated.*

# OUTREACH MINISTRIES

## **Christmas Shoebox Program**

**Seafarer's Christmas Shoebox Drop Off | Student Life Center porte cochère**  
**Sunday, December 6      Tuesday, December 8      Wednesday, December 9**  
**9 a.m.-noon      8 a.m.-6 p.m.      8 a.m.-6 p.m.**

**Seafarer's Christmas Shoebox Wrapping Party | Student Life Center**  
**Tuesday, December 15 | 4:30-6 p.m.**

*At Christmastime, the Houston International Seafarers Center, a St Martin's World Missions partner, passes out wrapped shoeboxes filled with many useful items.*

*Their mission is to show the spirit of hospitality and service so that recipients might experience Christ's love and grace. Please join in the mission.*

*Fill a shoebox with toiletries, playing cards, travel soaps, postcards, new socks, small games, hard candies and other items that would be appreciated on a long trip at sea.*



*For more information about what to fill your shoe boxes with, where to drop them off or to sign up for our wrapping party, contact [worldmission@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:worldmission@stmartinsepiscopal.org).*

Please Join Us for the Episcopal Church Women of St. Martin's

## Annual Toy Drive

**Monday, Dec. 7 | 11 a.m.-1 p.m. | Student Life Center Porte-cochère**

In the spirit of the season, the ECW is hosting a drive-through event to help meet the needs of children in our community. Please join us by dropping off an unwrapped toy for ages 10-17 (i.e. board games, puzzles, Legos, craft kits) or gift card (\$20 from Walmart, Target or Kroger) for children served by Houston's DePelchin Children's Center and Christian Community Service Center. Thank you for your generosity!

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



# CHRISTMAS SALE NOV. 30–DEC. 10



**Sundays**  
**9 a.m.–noon**

**Monday through Thursday**  
**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 • Christmas Items • Christmas Gifts  
Stocking Stuffers • Hostess Gifts • Handbags • Baby Items



## ADVENT QUIET DAY

**9 a.m. | Saturday, Dec. 12 | via Facebook and YouTube**

This year hear the stories of the fruits and blessings our Clergy have experienced through God's love. They will remind us how Jesus' birth will bring the reconciliation of all things.

After the event, the program will be available at any time for your convenience.

*Sponsored by*



For more information, contact Tracee Martin at  
713-985-3811 or [tmartin@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:tmartin@stmartinsepiscopal.org)



7-17 STUDENTS



for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students

Sunday, Dec. 13

5-6:30 p.m.

Student Life Center  
porte cochère

2020 DRIVE-THROUGH  
CELEBRATION

Come by any time between 5 and 6:30 p.m. for some holiday fun! Let's celebrate the season together with a prize wheel, treats and that crazy Christmas tree running around. Wear festive attire!

For more information, contact Florence Ritchie at  
[fritchie@stmartinepiscopal.org](mailto:fritchie@stmartinepiscopal.org) or 713-985-3843.



"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."  
Luke 3:11-14



## The Giving Tree CHRISTMAS CARD PROGRAM

The Giving Tree, a branch of St. Martin's Outreach Ministries, offers parishioners and the surrounding community the opportunity to honor a loved one on this holiday season through a heartfelt gift that empowers a worthy organization while touching hearts and changing lives.

*This year we have brought the ordering online for your convenience and safety.*  
[bit.ly/christmasgivingtree](https://bit.ly/christmasgivingtree)

You simply fill out the form, and Outreach Ministries will address and mail the cards for you. The deadline to order for this year is  
**5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14.**



"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the exceeding Father, The Prince of Peace."  
Isaiah 9:6

# The Moms' Group

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

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

## Virtual Social Gathering

Wednesday, December 16 | 8–9:15 p.m. | via Zoom

Devotional led by the Rev. Jane Ferguson, focusing on where we find our identity as women of faith, and the joys and pitfalls of the many labels we carry

## NEW THIS SEMESTER | Weekly Virtual Prayer Groups

Submit prayer requests or join the meeting to pray with and for the needs of our community. Requests will remain confidential.

Mondays | 1 p.m. | via Zoom

Tuesdays | 8 p.m. | via Zoom

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).



## Gifts for Christ Chapel

As construction moves ahead at a brisk pace on campus, parishioners have a number of opportunities to make special gifts in memory of or in thanksgiving for individuals in their lives. If you have an interest in subscribing Hallmark Silver Communion pieces for Holy Eucharist in Christ Chapel, or are interested in learning more about various opportunities with lasting impact for this and future generations, contact Carol Gallion at [cgallion@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:cgallion@stmartinsepiscopal.org).





# Christmas at ST. MARTIN'S

## Christmas Eve

### ONLINE:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 • 1 P.M.

Family Service with live Nativity

3 AND 5 P.M.

Holy Eucharist with festive music from the Chamber Choir,  
*Gloria Dei* Organ, brass and tympani

### IN-PERSON:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 • 1 P.M.

Family Service with live Nativity

3, 5, 7 AND 9 P.M.

Holy Eucharist with festive music from the Chamber Choir,  
*Gloria Dei* Organ, brass and tympani

## Christmas Day

### ONLINE & IN-PERSON:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 • 11 A.M.

Holy Eucharist with festive music and *Gloria Dei* Organ

*Limited seating with social distancing and masks required.*

*Reservations required for all in-person services.*

**Save your seats now at: [bit.ly/SeatReservations](https://bit.ly/SeatReservations)**

*Wait-list information is also available on the registration website.*



ST. MARTIN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

717 SAGE ROAD AT WOODWAY

713-621-3040 • [stmartinsepiscopal.org](https://stmartinsepiscopal.org)



# YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that, in order to be tax deductible for 2020, cash, check or credit card contributions to St. Martin's Episcopal Church must be received by the Church or postmarked by the United States Postal Service no later than Thursday, Dec. 31. **This includes payment of your 2020 pledge, prepayment of your 2021 pledge and payment of your *Building for the Ages* pledge.** The Finance staff is required to check the post office cancellation dates

on all receipts in early January to ensure our legal compliance to this rule.



For more information, contact Debbie Hutchison at 713-985-3803 or [dhutchison@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:dhutchison@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

[ckana@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:ckana@stmartinsepiscopal.org)

or call 713-985-3806.



# 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

## 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).

# 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*

Monday–Thursday  
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).



## THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM ..... “And the Glory of the Lord”  
George F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

Text: Isaiah 40:5.

## AT THE PRESENTATION

DOXOLOGY ..... *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise  
him, all creatures 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 *Pseumes 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.

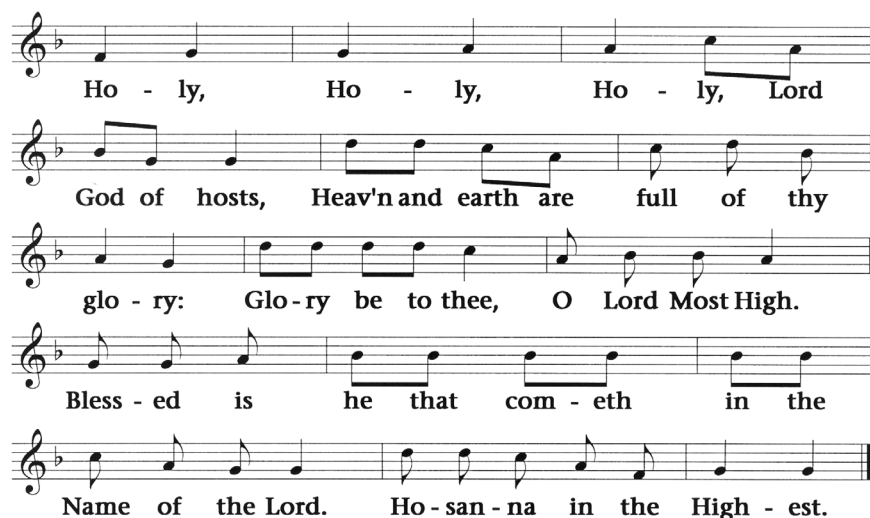
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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*



The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord'. The second staff contains 'God of hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy'. The third staff contains 'glo - ry: Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High.'. The fourth staff contains 'Bless - ed is he that com - eth in the'. The fifth staff contains 'Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.'.

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 Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came amongst us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## HYMN 65 (vs. 1 and 3)..... "Prepare the Way, O Zion"



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772–1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920); Music: *Beredet  
vög för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; Copyright: Words: © 1982, Charles P. Price.

## 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

In thanksgiving for the baptism of McKennon Maxwell Caire  
by Allyson and Brandon Caire

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Sally Bell Thompson  
by Sally Bell Rutherford

In thanksgiving for the baptisms of Raleigh Cavender Moorman and  
Emily Roberts Samuelson  
by their parents Katie and Blake Moorman, and  
Mindy and Clark Samuelson

In thanksgiving for the baptism of our grandchildren Raleigh Cavender  
Moorman and Emily Roberts Samuelson  
by their grandparents Ann and John Wooldridge



## BAPTISMS

November 28      James Ingalls Flugrad  
George Buchanan Richards



## SYMPATHY

October 21      Katharine Branch

November 13      Mike Halverson

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

# SERMON NOTES

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# OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

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## SUNDAY PROGRAM STAFF

**Dr. David Henning**

*Director of Music and Parish Organist*  
dhenning@stmartinsepiscopal.org

**Mr. Kevin Riehle**

*Choral Director of Adult Choir*  
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**Mrs. Kellen Gray Anderson**

*Coordinator of Children's Music Ministries*  
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**Mrs. Holli Kight**

*Lay Minister for Children's Christian Education*  
hkight@stmartinsepiscopal.org

**Mrs. Kathy Johnson**

*Lay Minister of Membership Ministries*  
kjohnson@stmartinsepiscopal.org

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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.**  
*Rector*  
lhough@stmartinsepiscopal.org



**The Rev. Sharron L. Cox**  
*Associate for Outreach, Pastoral Care  
and Women's Ministries*  
scox@stmartinsepiscopal.org



**The Rev. Martin J. Bastian**  
*Vice-Rector*  
mbastian@stmartinsepiscopal.org



**The Rev. John R. Bentley, Jr.**  
*Pastoral Associate*  
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**The Rev. Chad T. Martin**  
*Vicar*  
cmartin@stmartinsepiscopal.org



**The Rev. James (Jim) E. Cunningham**  
*Deacon Emeritus*  
jcunningham@stmartinsepiscopal.org



**The Rev. Dr. Susannah (Suse) E. McBay**  
*Associate for Adult Christian  
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**The Rev. Nicolas (Nick) R. D. Dyke**  
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**The Rev. Alex D. Graham III**  
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Family Ministries*  
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**The Rev. Richard (Dick) Elwood**  
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**The Rev. Lisa R. Neilson**  
*Associate for Pastoral Care and  
Women's Ministries*  
lneilson@stmartinsepiscopal.org



**The Rev. Gill Keyworth**  
*Deacon*  
gkeyworth@stmartinsepiscopal.org



**The Rev. Jane P. Ferguson**  
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Ministries and Outreach*  
jferguson@stmartinsepiscopal.org



**The Rev. Robert E. Wareing**  
*Pastoral Associate*  
rwareing@stmartinsepiscopal.org

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