

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 26, 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

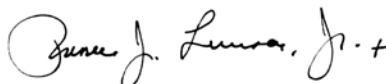
FROM THE RECTOR

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.***

Please continue to take CORONA virus precautions. We encourage all who visit our campus to be fully vaccinated. If not vaccinated, we request you wear a mask while on our campus; or continue to participate in the variety of virtual offerings for worship, education and fellowship. Please note that anyone not abiding by these recommendations is doing so at his or her own risk. Thank you for your cooperation.

NOTICE: St. Martin's is a gun-free campus.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

DECEMBER 26

Christian Education for Adults, Children's Ministry and 7-1-7 Students will not be offered today in observance of the Christmas holiday. Christian Education classes resume next Sunday, Jan. 9.

St. Martin's Campus will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 27 and 28, in observance of the Christmas holiday, and from noon Friday, Dec. 31 through Monday, Jan. 3, in observance of the New Year holiday.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that, in order to be tax deductible for 2021, 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 Friday, Dec. 31. **This includes payment of your 2021 pledge, prepayment of your 2022 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.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. is a spoken service. Musical pieces in this booklet will be skipped or replaced by spoken liturgy, as noted.

VOLUNTARY "Two Christmas Chorale Preludes" Paul Manz

The Celebrant greets the People. Following the greeting, all stand.

*HYMN 93 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

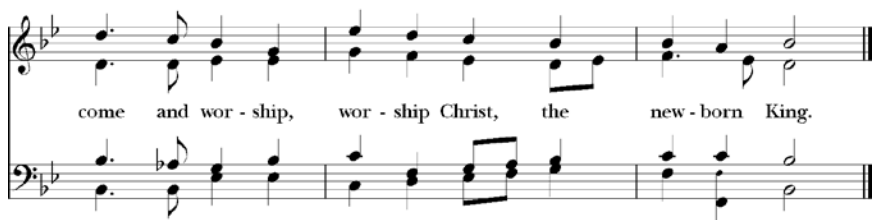
The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/4 time and the key of B-flat major (two flats). The score is divided into three systems. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final two lines of the hymn, with the second line marked as a 'Refrain'. The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef and provides harmonic support for the vocal parts.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
ye have seen his na - tal star: come and wor - ship,
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

**indicates when latecomers may be seated so as not to disturb other worshipers*



Words: James Montgomery (1771–1854), alt.; Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813–1879).

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.**

GLORIA *Gloria*





Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813–1882), alt.; Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958); Copyright: Words: By permission of Fleming H. Revell Company.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. (*kneel*)

The Celebrant says the Collect

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSON Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born

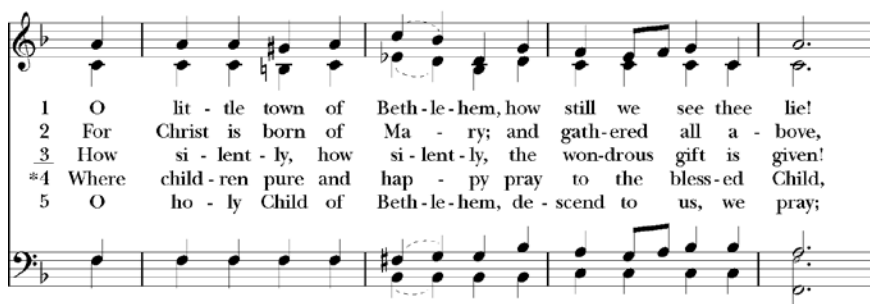
under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

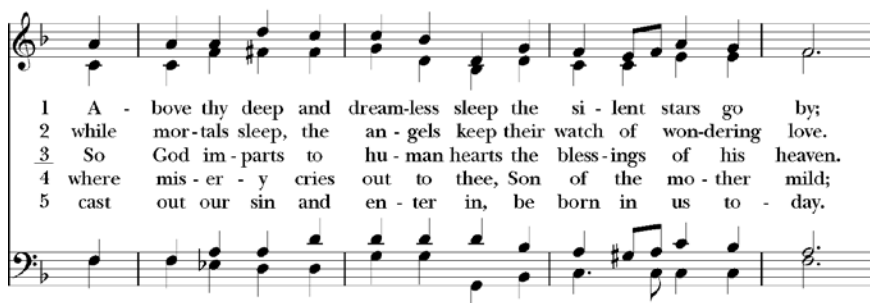
People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

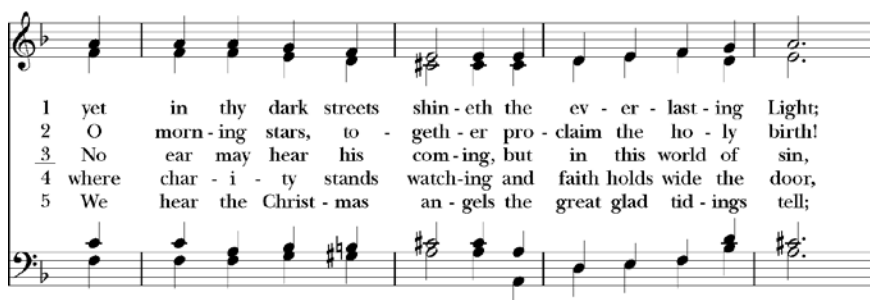
HYMN 79 (vs. 1-2)“O Little Town of Bethlehem”



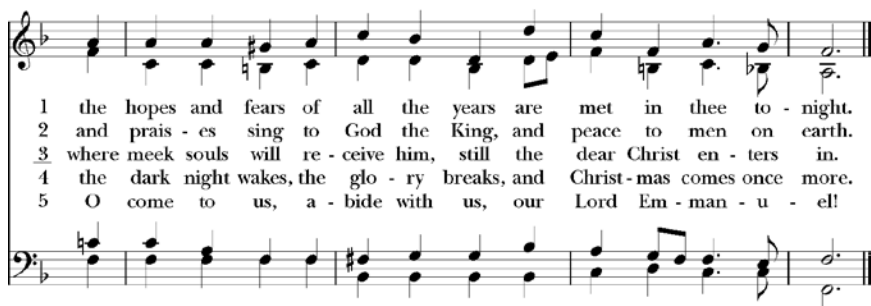
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



Words: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893); Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831–1908).

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

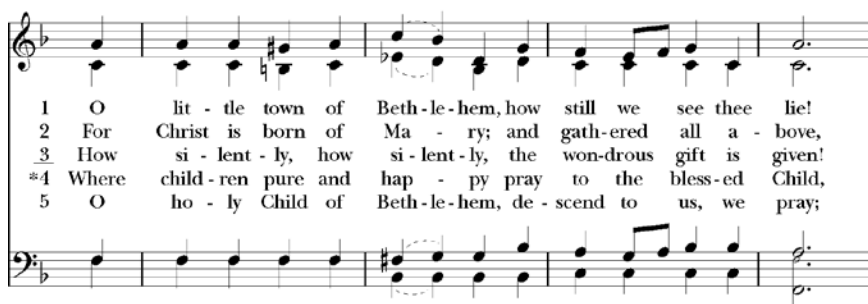
From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

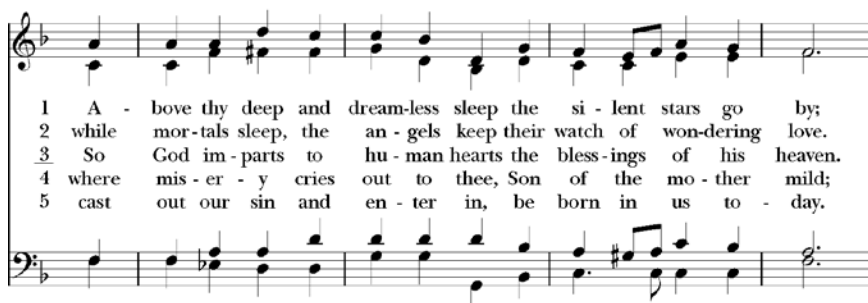
People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining lectionary for the day is on page 29.

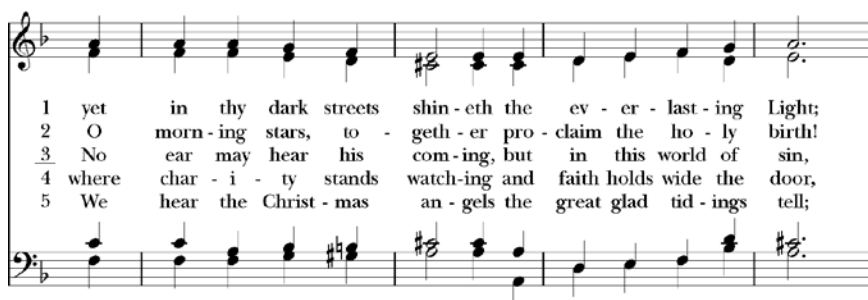
HYMN 79 (vs. 5).....“O Little Town of Bethlehem”



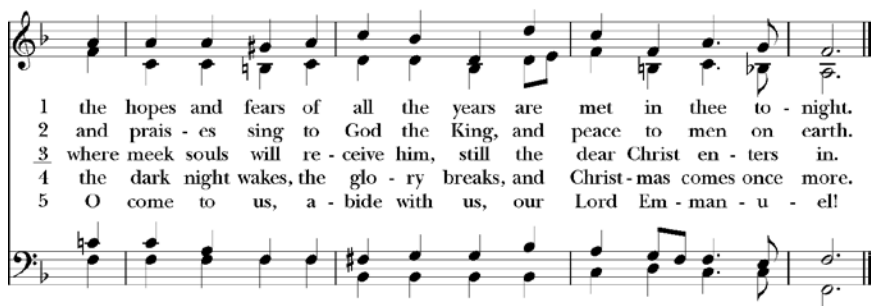
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Please be seated.

THE SERMON “What Is God Like?” *The Rev. Lisa R. Neilson*

THE NICENE CREED (*BCP p. 327*)

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. 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 Joe, our President, Greg, our Governor, Sylvester, our Mayor, and the Congress and the Courts; for all who serve in our armed forces and their families; for persecuted Christians; for victims of terror attacks; for an end to war and conflict; for victims of natural disasters; for first responders; for those suffering from the effects of the Coronavirus; for health care workers; for those in the hospitals,__; for those whom our prayers have been requested,__; for those on our Continuing Prayer List; for all the blessings of this life; for the dearly departed,__; and 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.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.



SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR *Healing and Wholeness*



St. Martin's International OSL Healing Community offers a service of prayer for healing and wholeness on the first Wednesday of each month. This short service is held for anyone in need of prayer for themselves, friends or family.

Next Service

Wednesday, Jan. 5 | 5 p.m.
Parish Life Center or via Zoom
bit.ly/oslservice

For more information, contact Katwana Coleman at
kcoleman@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Christian Life Study



MORNING GROUP

Jan. 6 through Feb. 17

9:30 to 11:20 a.m. • Parish Life Center

Join the CLS Morning Group in their study of

“Isaiah: Here is Your God”

by Tim Chester

For more information, contact Anna McLean at
281-782-0594 or amaynebr1@gmail.com.

Register at CLSBibleStudy.com



SATURDAY, JAN. 8 | 10 A.M.
CHILDREN'S LIFE CENTER

Special Guest: Tory B. Arnold

*Co-hosted by St. Martin's Episcopal Church
and St. James' Episcopal Church*

We welcome The Order of the Daughters of the King® Diocesan President, Tory B. Arnold, who will speak about the Strategic Plan Companion and how we can “nurture and grow our members.”

For more information, please contact Tracee Martin at tmartin@stmartinsepiscopal.org.



In January St. Martin's celebrates

World Missions Month

Come see how we plan to deepen our presence around the globe through innovative local and global opportunities.



Upcoming World Missions Talks at All Morning Services

Sunday, January 9

Texas Water Mission, Sus Hijos, Seafarers

Sunday, January 23

Sole Hope, Amistad Mission, Plant with Purpose



ST. MARTIN'S Cooking CLASSES

**Thursday, Jan. 20 • 6-8 p.m.
Parish Life Center Kitchen**

St. Martin's hosts Cooking Classes with professional chefs—including our own Chef Julio Flores. The series are designed for all skill levels and perfect for those interested in sharpening their culinary skills and sharing in fellowship.

***Register for this Greek cuisine class with Chef Mary Cuculis
at bit.ly/stmartinscooking4***

St. Martin's Choir Tour to

PARIS

July 16-25, 2022

All are welcome to join us on this wonderful tour!

- Fly Air France (non-stop) from Houston to Paris on July 16.
- Day trip to Normandy with a guided tour of the American Cemetery and Omaha Beach.
- Tour and performance in the Chartres Cathedral, La Madeleine, St. Sulpice and St. Jean de Caen.



Interested in joining us on this exciting trip?

Contact Angel Romero at aromero@stmartinsepiscopal.org

A Very Special Lenten Retreat

Icon Writing

with Teresa Harrison



March 7-11

Monday through Friday

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The class meets from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday.



St. Martin's will host renowned instructor Teresa Harrison for a five-day course in the ancient technique of icon writing.

Participants will write their own icons using acrylic paint and gold leaf, a medium that resembles the traditional egg tempera.

Registration fee of \$495 includes all art supplies, but students will need to bring a small desk lamp and an apron or smock.

Registration is now open <https://bit.ly/iconography2021>



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Great = IS THY = Faithfulness

STEWARDSHIP 2022

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE NOW

WAYS TO GIVE



TEXT: Text SMEC to 73256

ONLINE: stmartinsepiscopal.org/giving

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

REQUESTS: Contact: Director of
Parish Stewardship, Ashley Pratka at
apratka@stmartinsepiscopal.org
or 346-335-8658

TRANSFER OF ASSETS: Pledging
and setting up a recurring gift online
helps you and the church budget.

LEARN MORE AT: [STMARTINSEPISCOPAL.ORG/GIVING](https://stmartinsepiscopal.org/giving)

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM "Jesus Child"
John Rutter

Have you heard the story that they're telling 'bout Bethlehem, have you heard the story of the Jesus Child? How he came from heaven and was born in a manger bed? Mary was his virgin mother pure and mild. Have you heard the story of the poor humble shepherd men, sitting on the hillside with their flocks at night? Suddenly the angel tells them: 'Hurry to Bethlehem; go and find the Jesus child, the world's new light.' Jesus child, lying at Bethlehem, Sleeping safe at Mary's knee, Save my soul and bring me to paradise, Let me join the angels singing glory to thee. Have you heard the story of the kings from the orient, following the star that's shining over his head? Offering their precious gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense, kneeling with the ox and ass before his bed? Brothers, let us celebrate the birth of the Jesus child, Sisters, come and welcome him, the newborn King; Praise the Lord who sent him down from heaven at Christmastime; Young and old and rich and poor, his praises sing. Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, Worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild. 'Glory to God on high' the angel hosts above are singing: Listen to the story of the Jesus child.

Words and music by John Rutter.

AT THE PRESENTATION

(8 a.m. only in place of sung Doxology)

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord;

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

DOXOLOGY *Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise him all crea - tures here be -
low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a -
bove ye heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
Refrain
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Thomas Ken (1637-1711); Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623; adapt. Ralph Vaughan William (1872-1958).

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 give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

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 (said at 8 a.m.; sung at 9 a.m.)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven 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.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880–1968); Copyright: By permission of Oxford University Press.

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.

(8 a.m. only in place of sung Fraction Anthem)

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM*St. Louis*

Cantor sings

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

Congregation sings

**No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

Then may be said

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)

Distribution of the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. At this time, we are offering only the wafer, which is considered full Communion in the Episcopal Church. Please tell the priest administering Communion if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.

A N T H E M “In the Bleak Midwinter”
Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter long ago. Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain Heaven and earth shall flee away, when He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable placed sufficed The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ. Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day, a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay. Enough for Him, whom angels, fall down before, the ox and ass and camel, which adore. What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

Text: Christina Rossetti. Music: Harold Darke.

HYMN 87 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



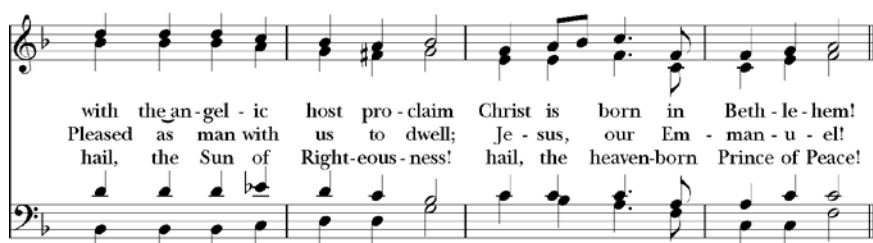
1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

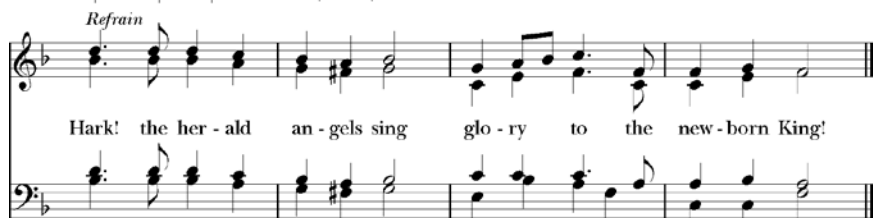


Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt.; Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831–1915).

HYMN "Away in a Manger"

1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, The
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing; the Ba - by a - wakes, But
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay Close

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The
 lit - tle Lord Je - sus— no cry - ing he makes. I
 by me for - e - ver, and love me, I pray. Bless

stars in the sky— looked down where He lay; The
 love Thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky, And
 all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care, And

lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 stay by my side un - til mor - ning is nigh.
 fit us for hea - ven, to live with Thee there.

Text: Anon. (v. 1-2 Kirkpatrick, 1885; vs. 3 Charles H. Gabriel, 1892); Music: *Mueller*; arr. John Weaver.

HYMN 105 "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heav - en - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same;
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



Refrain
 O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Words: *London Carol*; Music: *God Rest You Merry*, Melody, *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850.

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

All stand.

HYMN 100 "Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



Words: Isaac Watts; Music: *Antioch*, G.F. Händel.

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

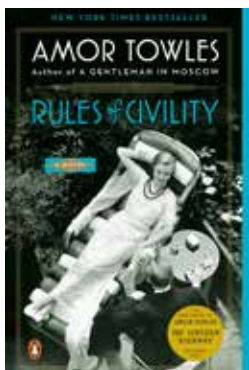
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Personal prayers are available at the west Side Chapel after this service.



DAY GROUP



1–2:30 p.m. | Wednesday, Jan. 12
Children's Life Center, Room 132

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.**

SERMON NOTES

OTHER READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE OLD TESTAMENTIsaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

THE PSALMPsalm 147:13-21

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion; for he has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you. He has established peace on your borders; he satisfies you with the finest wheat. He sends out his command to the earth, and his word runs very swiftly. He gives snow like wool; he scatters hoarfrost like ashes. He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; who can stand against his cold? He sends forth his word and melts them; he blows with his wind, and the waters flow. He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and his judgments to Israel. He has not done so to any other nation; to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Individuals are included on the *Continuing Prayers* list for numerous reasons, some of which may include recovery from illness, thanksgiving or need for support for special ministry and mission. In addition to praying for participants in cancer support groups, the Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group and The Gathering, this week please pray for the following:

Shelly Bain	Brittney Jacobson	Jim Stokes
Cia Baze	John Jamail	Aaron Strong
Jack Beeson	Shirlee Jamail	Susan Strother
Missy Belote	Helen Joyner	Paul Stumpff
Anne Berry	Muriel Kearby Albaral	Nancy Talbot
Alli Blackman	Paige Laird	Paul Therrien
Cory Blackman	Amy Lee	Bart Tomlinson
Grace Blake	Stan Leong	H. Michael Tyson
John and Dianne Brock III	Shawn Levenson	Randy Vander Naillen
Jane Cabes	Nancy Liles	Becky Wareing
Elinor Christian	Martha Ann Linden	Charles Warren
Higdon Compton, Jr.	Robertta Lloyd	Mary Waters
Beth Costa	Ryan Logan	Derry Wilkens
Gail Davis	Jaclyn Manning	James Wilkerson
Mac Davis	Jo Nell Marshall	Eric Zoerb
Sue Davis	Jeffrey Martinson	Ben
Tommy W. Davis	BD McAndrew	Betsey
Louis DelHomme	Michelle McStravick	Elizabeth
Bobby deSosa	Hal Means	Henry
Betty DeVerter	Len Menefee	Jane
Chase Dixon	Benice Nwabueze	Kathryn
Nancy Doss	Judy and Jay O'Connor	Laura
Jim Easterling	Jim Paddock	Lorrie
Stacey Elliott	Troy Phillips	Marilyn
Matt Fryar	Jimmy Prentice	Mark
Brad Gallion	Ophelia Pujol	Matthew
Max Goodloe	Barbara Quackenbush	Oran
Hollis, McKay and	Rocky Robinson	Patsy
Rand Grace	Robert Rosales	RC
Shea Guinn	Jimmy Sackllah	Sally
Gladys Halbouty	Brady Samuelson	Thomas
Walesk Harvey	Jim Sanitato	Victor and Barbara
Elizabeth Hill	Ellie Schilling	Woody
Mollie Hill	Helen and Jim Shaffer	
Jeff Holden	Patsy Shappley	
Elizabeth Holderfield	Clif Shoemake	
Wayne Hollis	Richard Smith	
Debra Ibarra Mayfield	Bob Spencer	

Please be advised that we will be updating the Continuing Prayers list twice a year in the weeks before Easter and All Saints' Day. Names will remain on the prayer list for six months. To put someone on the Continuing Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vriviera@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Names we have received of those in the Armed Forces:

SSgt Clint Bahme
Lt. Col. Julian Benton
1st Lt. Benjamin Brown
Lt. Col. Chris Davis
Wesley Dodd
James Drury III
James Eilers
Major Parker Firestone
Capt. Dom Flatt
Nathan Fordice
1st Lt. Will Golinkin

LCDR Bradley Ryan
Hoffman
Capt. Cody Horr
Maj. Wesley J. Hunnell
Dallas Wayne Hunter
Staton Jobe
Lt. Cmdr. Kory Krebs
Krystal Martinez
PV2 Wills Masterson
1st Lt. Ben Matthews
1st Lt. Jack Mullen

2nd Lt. Alex Mullen
Lt. Holly E. Pace
Lt. Paul Piana
LCMR David A. Pilko
Maj. Thomas Cook Plant
PO1 Brian Matthew Powell
SPC Joel Rowell
Maj. Christian Schleider
1st Lt. Grant Suter
1st Lt. Luke Voss

ST. MARTIN'S IS HERE FOR YOU! GOD LOVES YOU!

General Questions

Contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040.

Prayer Requests

Contact the Prayer Request Line at 713-830-4124,
or Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or
vrivera@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.

OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

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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. Bob Heston, Jr., *Parish Stewardship Chair*

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. Bill Frazer, *Senior Council Representative 2021-2022*

Mr. Will Williams, Jr., *Senior Council Representative 2021-2022*

Mrs. Therese Moore, *Altar Guild President 2021-2022*

Mrs. Dana Parkey, *ECW President 2021-2022*

Mr. Joe Lopez, *Men of St. Martin's President 2019-2022*

Mr. Michael Weaber, *Usher Representative 2021-2022*

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



Mrs. Michelle Bain

Vestry Person of the Day

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ
The Head of This Church



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The Rev. R. Wesley Arning
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The Rev. Jane P. Ferguson
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The Rev. Robert E. Wareing
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WE INVITE YOU TO
KEEP THIS BOOKLET
FOR REFERENCE.

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