THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 9, 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.



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.

Gener J. Luna, Jr. +

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.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

VOLUNTARY......Sonata 1, "Adagio"

Felix Mendelssohn

Mr. Kevin Riehle, Choral Director of Adult Choir

All stand.

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 page 232)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray. (kneel)

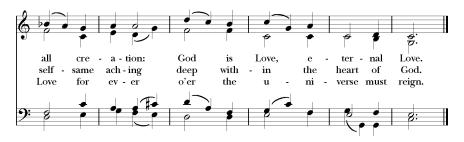
The Celebrant says the Collect

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

HYMN 379 (vs. 1 and 3)....."God is Love" Jan Cornelius LeClair, Brennan Blankenship, Jeff Ragsdale, Ben LeClair, St. Martin's Parish Choir





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THE LESSONJonah 2:1-9

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying, "I called to the Lord out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; how shall I look again upon your holy temple?' The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me for ever; yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O Lord my God. As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the Lord!"

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

HYMN 137 (vs. 1 and 5)....."O Wondrous Type"



Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, after John Mason Neale (1848–1866), alt.; Music: *Wareham*, melody William Knapp (1698–1768); alt.; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, after James Turle (1802–1882); desc. Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875–1947).

All stand.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL...... Matthew 14:22–33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart. it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Please be seated.

HYMN 388 (vs. 1, 2 and 3)"O Worship the King"



Words: Robert Grant (1779–1838); Music: Hanover, att. William Croft (1678–1727).

THE SERMON"Letting God Be God" *The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.*

THE NICENE CREED (BCP page 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 page 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, 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; for the many people who have contracted the coronavirus; for comfort for those grieving loved ones who have died and peace for those who are fearful as the virus spreads; 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 page 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 page 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 page 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.

THE PEACE (stand)

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

People: And with thy spirit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

WAYS TO GIVE



TEXT TO GIVE

Text SMEC to 73256



ONLINE

stmartinsepiscopal.org/giving



MAIL

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



ESTATE PLANNING

Contact: Director of Parish Stewardship, Ashley Pratka: 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

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

New Book by The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson Jr.

A portion of proceeds goes to support Outreach Ministries at St. Martin's



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For more information, contact Outreach Ministries at 713-985-3811 or outreach@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

LET'S TALK ABOUT PORN AS A CHURCH

ST. MARTIN'S PARENT/YOUTH PRESENTATIONS



WHO'S TALKING TO MY KIDS ABOUT PORN?

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 5:30 P.M. | VIA ZOOM

"I don't know one kid at my school that doesn't look at porn." How did you just react to that statement? In love, we hope! This presentation is designed for parents to attend with their children who are in the 6th tow 12th grade.



HOW DO I TALK TO MY KIDS ABOUT PORN?

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 | 5:30 P.M. | VIA ZOOM

Last week we learned some harsh truths about the hyper-sexualized culture we all live in. Now, what do we do about it? This presentation is a follow up to "Who's Taking to My Kids About Porn." It is designed for families — parents attending with their children. It may seem uncomfortable at first, but it is the best and only-way forward.



DEFEND YOUR HOME WITH A TECH STRATEGY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 | 5:30 P.M. | VIA ZOOM

Last week we learned what T.R.E.E.S. means an how it can guide families through tough conversations. I this final presentation, we will take what we have learned and apply practical strategies to defend our homes.

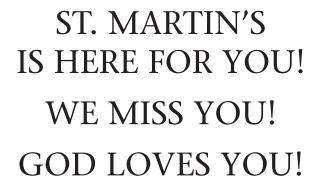
If you have questions or would like more information, contact Cyd Gillette, Director of Outreach Ministries, at 713-830-4128 or cgillette@stmartinsepiscopal.org or the Rev. Jane P. Ferguson, Assistant for Liturgy, Outreach and Student Ministries, at 713-621-3040 or jferguson@stmartinsepiscopal.org





Zoom Meeting Link: https://zoom.us/j/3096081170





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 Jennifer DiMichele at 713-985-3845 or jdimichele@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.





THE OFFERTORY

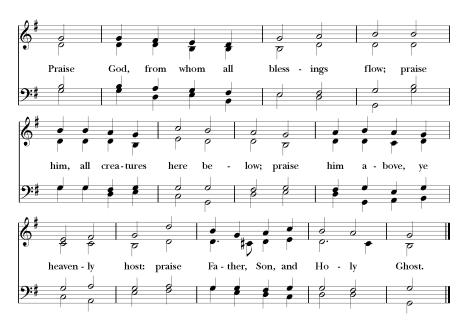
ANTHEM"" "O Come, Everyone that Thirsteth"
Felix Mendelssohn

O come, everyone that thirsteth, O come to the waters, O come unto Him. O come, everyone that thirsteth, come ye unto Him, O hear, and your souls shall live forever; O come to the waters, O come everyone that thirsteth. O come to Him!

From Elijah.

AT THE PRESENTATION

DOXOLOGYOld 100th



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?).

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray. (kneel)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP page 336)

Celebrant and People

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.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the son and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen**.

Please be seated.

HYMN 390 (vs. 1 and 4)....."Praise to the Lord"



Words: Joachim Neander (1650–1680); tr. Hymnal 1940, alt.; Music: Lobe den Herren, melody from Erneuerten Gesangbuch, 1665; harm. The Chorale Book for England, 1863.

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

SERMON NOTES

OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

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

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ *The Head of This Church*



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