FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 8, 2023



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.

June 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.

NOTICES

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

St. Martin's asks that anyone coming into a worship service not bring oversized or large backpacks.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

JANUARY 8

Adults

8+ with the Rev. Wesley Arning

8:55-9:25 a.m. | Chapel Reception Hall

This class is a Clergy-led coffee and discussion following the 8 a.m. service. Each class focuses on one of the lectionary readings for the day.

All Adult Sunday with the Hon. James A. Baker, III and Jean Becker

10:15-11 a.m. | Bagby Parish Hall

Hear more about former Secretary Baker's service under three U.S. Presidents and Jean Becker, who covered the 1988 presidential election for USA Today before going to work in the Bush White House.

For more information about Adult Christian Education, email Amanda DeViney at adeviney@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

7-I-7 Students

Episcopal Youth Community

10:15-11 a.m. | Student Life Center

Grades 6-12 are welcome to join Student Ministries for coffee, lemonade, donuts and conversation about the Scriptures shared in worship.

For more information about 7-1-7 Students email Student Ministries at students@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School

10:15-11 a.m. | Children's Life Center

We have engaging lessons, curriculum and content for both preschool and elementary school. Childcare is available during all morning services for infants through four-year-olds.

For more information about Children's Ministry email Rocio Velazquez at rvelazquez@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Music Ministry

Young Singers of St. Martin's

8:15 a.m. | Rehearsal in Children's Life Center 9:15 a.m. | Family Table service in Parish Life Center

Young Singers of St. Martin's, for grades 1-12, make joyful and beautiful music while affording them a special place in the worship services at St. Martin's.

For more information about Young Singers of St. Martin's, email yssm@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

JANUARY 9-14

Adults

Saintly Stitchers

Monday, Jan. 9

10 a.m.-noon | Activity Center, Upper Hall East

Saintly Stitchers fill St. Martin's with pew kneelers and other gifts for worship spaces. For more information, contact the Rev. Lisa Neilson at Ineilson@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, Jan. 10 9-11:30 a.m. | Activity Center, Family Room

Knit and crochet shawls to be blessed for those in need of prayer. For more information, contact the Rev. Lisa Neilson at Ineilson@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Blanket Ministry

Wednesday, Jan. 11

10-11:30 a.m. | Activity Center, Family Room

Make receiving blankets for newborn infants at local charity hospitals. For more information, contact the Rev. Lisa Neilson at Ineilson@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Church Tours

Wednesday, Jan. 11 10:45-11:15 a.m. | Christ Chapel 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | The Church

The Church and Christ Chapel will be open for visitors. The Docent Guild offers a formal tour of The Church at 11:30 a.m. To schedule a group tour, please contact the Docent Line at 713-830-4117. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at scox@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild

Wednesday, Jan. 11

Noon-3 p.m. | Activity Center, Upper Hall East

St. Clare's Guild undertakes a variety of needlepoint projects in worship spaces and for outreach programs. For more information, contact the Rev. Lisa Neilson at Ineilson@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Order of St. Luke (OSL) Healing Ministry Study Group

Wednesday, Jan. 11

4:30-6 p.m. | Vestry Conference Room and via Zoom

Learn and grow in the practice of prayer for healing, with an opportunity to train as an OSL prayer minister. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at scox@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Parish Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Jan. 12

7-9 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal Hall

Sing a variety of traditional music in service to the Lord and our congregation. For more information, contact Dr. David Henning at dhenning@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Men

Dads' Bible Study

Thursday, Jan. 12 8-9 a.m. | Welcome Center

Join dads with children of all ages for coffee, fellowship and Bible study. For more information, contact the Rev. Wesley Arning at rwarning@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Women

Christian Life Study

Tuesday, Jan. 10 – Evening Group | 6:30–8 p.m. | Children's Life Center and via Zoom Thursday, Jan. 12 – Day Group | 9:30–11:30 a.m. | Parish Life Center and via Zoom

This friendly and loving group of women meets over the course of the year to target various topics in the Bible to deepen faith. For more information, contact the Rev. Marty Bastian at Igallien@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

7-1-7 Students

Life Groups

Wednesday, Jan. 11

6-8 p.m. | Student Life Center

Students in grades 6-12 connect with their peers for fun activities and great discussions about faith and life. Please bring \$5 to cover the cost of dinner. For more information, contact the Rev. Jane Ferguson at jferguson@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.

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



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



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

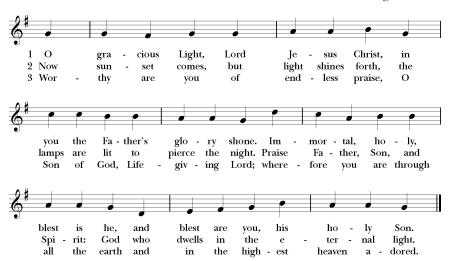
Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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.**

HYMN AT THE GLORIA......The Eighth Tune



Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895–1984); para. of O Gracious Light; Music: The Eighth Tune, Thomas Tallis (1505?–1585); adapt. Hymnal 1982.

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

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

Please be seated.

THE EPISTLEActs 10:34-43

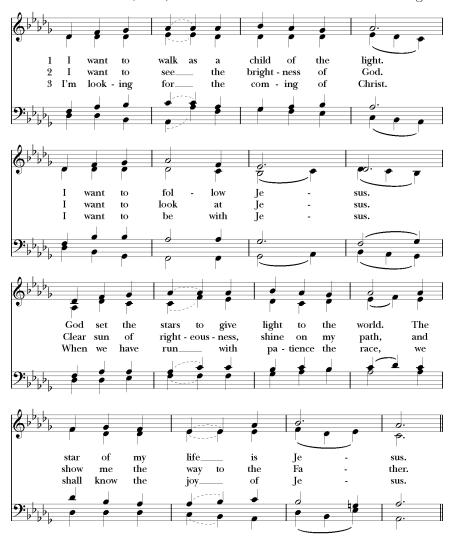
Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

HYMN 490 (vs. 1-2)......"I Want to Walk as Child of the Light"





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

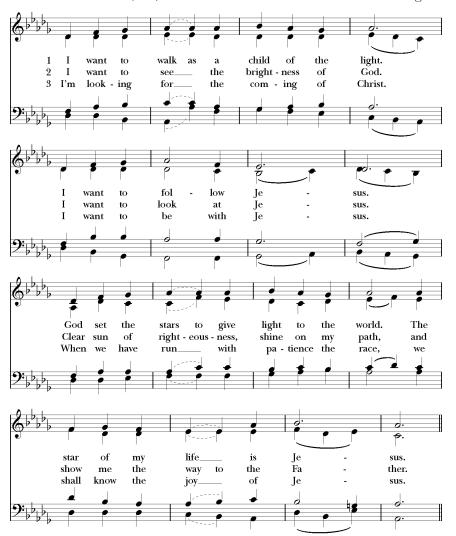
People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

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





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Please be seated.

THE SERMON

"What Happens When You Make Jesus 'The Most Important Thing..."
The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (stand)

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of

heaven and earth.

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

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

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and

born of the Virgin Mary.

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

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (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 Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai and Hector, our bishops; the Clergy of this Parish; in the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, for the diocese of ___; 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; especially for Joe, our President, Greg, our Governor, Sylvester, our Mayor, and the Congress and the Courts.

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; for those who are hospitalized, especially ___; for those for whom our prayers have been requested, especially ___; and for those on our continuing prayer list;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially ___;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We give thee thanks for all the blessings of this life, especially those remembered today with Altar flowers, ___; and we praise thee for thy saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in thy heavenly kingdom.

In this moment of silence, let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

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

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Minister and People

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

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 see page 30 for upcoming events.

THE OFFERTORY

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

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

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AT THE PRESENTATION

(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.



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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (stand)

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

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

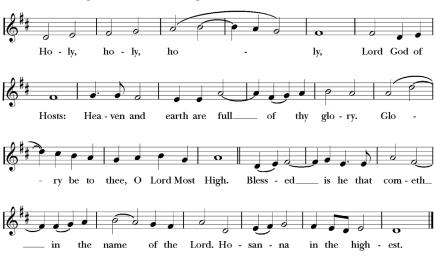
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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

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

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Celebrant and People (said at 8 a.m.; sung at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.)



 $Music: From \textit{\it Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena}, Healey Willan (1880-1968); Copyright: By permission of Oxford University Press.$

The Celebrant continues (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

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

(said at 8 a.m.; sung at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.)



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.

Then may be said

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

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.

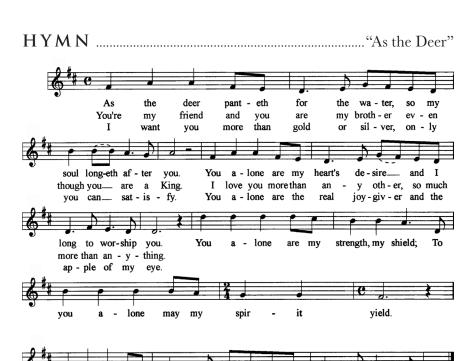
All Christians who have been baptized with water and in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and are permitted to receive Holy Communion in their own church are welcome to do so on this occasion. If you do not wish to receive one or both Elements, cross your arms over your chest and the Clergy will give you a blessing. Please tell the priest administering Communion if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.

ANTHEM"O Nata Lux" Thomas Tallis

O Nata Lux de lumine Jesu redemptor saeculi Dignare Clemens supplicum Laudes preces que sumere. Qui carne quondam contegi Dignatus est pro perditis Nos membra confer effici Tui beati corporis.

O Light of light, by love inclined, Jesu, redeemer of mankind, with loving-kindness deign to hear from suppliant voices praise and prayer. Thou who to raise our souls from hell didst deign in fleshly form to dwell, vouchsafe us, when our race is run, in thy fair Body to be one.

Source: Cantiones que ab argument sacrae vocantur (London, 1575), No. 8. Music © 1969 Oxford University Press.



Words and Music: Martin Nystrom; CCLI Song #1431; © 1984 Maranatha Praise, Inc.; All rights Reserved. CCLI #805314.

de - sire,____

and I

long

You a - lone are my heart's

to wor - ship

you.



6 Just as I am, of thy great love the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove, here for a season, then above: O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Words: Charlotte Elliott (1789–1871); Music: Woodworth, William Batchelder Bradbury (1816–1868).



Music: Peter Scholtes; Text: Peter Scholtes, based on John 13:35; @ Copyright 1966 by F.E.L. Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

People and Celebrant

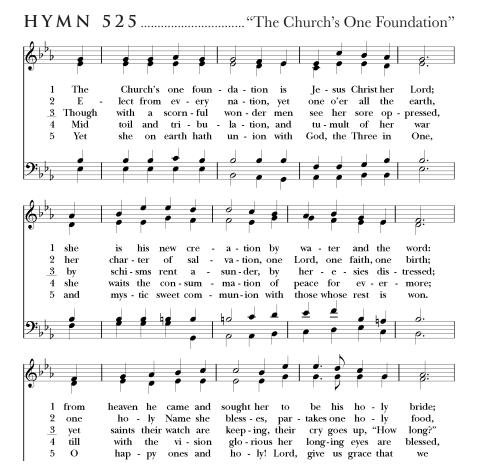
Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate 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.

At 9 and 11:15 a.m., after the Post-Communion Prayer, members of the Shepherd's Guild may come forward. The priest or deacon gives the Sacrament to the Eucharistic visitors, saying

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us the Communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we share one bread, one cup. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

All stand.



Words: Samuel John Stone (1839–1900); Music: Aurelia, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1818–1876).

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

OTHER READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE OLD TESTAMENTIsaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

THE PSALM Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!" The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In thanksgiving for the Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr. on the 31st anniversary of his ordination and installation as 4th Rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Brooke Elizabeth Caltagirone and Whitney Claire Caltagirone

by their parents and family

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Owen Franklin Powell by his grandparents, Anya and Kevin McInnis

In thanksgiving for all of our St. Martin's Acolytes



SYMPATHY

Dec. 5 David Burton Roemer

Dec. 15 Alan Olsen Clark, Jr.

Dec. 29 Raleigh W. Johnson, Jr.

To mark a special occasion with an altar flower dedication, visit bit.ly/smecaltarflowers or contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam at relhakam@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

SERMON NOTES

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:

Bobbie Adams Shawn Levenson Carolyn Alban Nancy Liles Harvey and Ryan Logan Katie Altmann Marie Lord Greg Martin Patsy Angel Pat Marymee Shelly Bain Ianet McDaniel Anne Berry Patricia McDonald Cory Blackman Dianne Brock Christine Nguyen Don Cheatham Nwora Onwuzulu Higdon Compton, Jr. Jim Paddock Beth Costa Russell Pae Gail Davis **Iimmy Prentice** Mac Davis Michael Reade Ted Reed Sue Davis Tommy W. Davis Susan Rovello Bobby deSosa Baker Rudolph Ross Dunn David Samuelson Kiersten Dyke Molly Scarbrough Jim Easterling Helen and Jim Shaffer Caroline Shanahan Stacey and John Elliott Mayfield Family Megan Sharkev Charles Flores Clif Shoemake Brad Gallion Ryan Smith Catherine Gonzales William and Nancy Gore Betsy Smith Mark Solomons Shea Guinn Connie Hanev **Bob Spencer** Susie C. Hatfield Jim and Jan Stokes Mollie Hill James Swann Nancy Talbot Jeff Holden Martin Taylor Nicole Jabbari Ronnie Jacobe, Jr. Paul Therrien Lynda Jones Mimi Thobae Carlotta Thomas Mary Anne Kannard Muriel Kearby Albaral Millie Tonn Paige Laird Jane Touchstone Sherman Lasker Sue Uthe

Stan Leong

Randy Vander Naillen
Mae Joyce and
Grant Wagner
Janice Waits Murphy
Roger Williams
Eric Zoerb
Angela
Anne
Barbara
Betsey
Dean
Elizabeth
Eric and Family
Henry

Jana
Landry
Laura
Leslie
Marilyn
Mary Jane
Naomi
Willie

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 vrivera@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Tim VanAntwerp

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
Sgt. James Drury III
James Eilers
Major Parker Firestone
Capt. Dom Flatt
1st Lt. Will Golinkin
LCDR Bradley R. 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 Ensign Ben Morris 1st Lt. Jack Mullen 2nd Lt. Alex Mullen Lt. Cmdr. Holly E. Pace James W. Peoples Lt. Paul Piana LCMR David A. Pilko Lt. Col. Thomas C. Plant PO1 Brian M. Powell SPC Joel Rowell Maj. Christian Schleider 1st Lt. Grant Suter 1st Lt. Luke Voss



JANUARY IS WORLD MISSION MONTH

Sunday, Jan. 8 | 11:15 a.m. Riverway Service | Parish Life Center

Come hear about our ministry partner, Amistad Mission, from guest speaker Chris King. Amistad Mission provides nurturing Christian family environments for vulnerable Bolivian children to grow to independent adulthood and to strengthen families in crisis to establish loving and stable homes.

Sunday, Jan. 15 | 10:15 a.m. Creative Spaces | Chapel Reception Hall

Help cut shoe patterns for Sole Hope. These shoe uppers will become size 4 shoes for barefoot Ugandan kids. The shoes will protect the children from painful parasites called jiggers.

Sunday, Jan. 22 | 10:15 a.m. Creative Spaces | Chapel Reception Hall

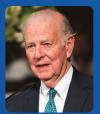
Learn about Sus Hijos and their work in El Salvador. Kurt Ackermann, president of Sus Hijos, will join us via Zoom.

TRAVEL THE WORLD. SEE OTHER COUNTRIES. HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

ALL-ADULT SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JAN. 8 10:15 – 11 a.m. Bagby Parish Hall

Hear more about former Secretary Baker's service under three U.S. Presidents and Jean Becker, who covered the 1988 presidential election for USA Today before going to work in the Bush White House. Jean Becker will engage James Baker in a thoughtful conversation that will touch on his faith, career and relationship with the Bushes.



The Honorable James A. Baker, III 61st Secretary of State



Jean BeckerFormer Chief of Staff for
President George H.W. Bush



Acolytes and their families are invited to a dinner honoring their contributions to worship services prior to the worship service. All Parishioners and guests are invited to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with this special candle-lit service, led by our acolytes.

To register for the Acolyte Dinner, please visit bit.ly/acolytedinner





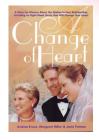
FLOWER ARRANGING

Wednesday, Jan. 11 11 a.m. | Fellowship Room

Learn how to create a beautiful flower arrangement for your home or office! Vase and flowers provided for a \$5 supply fee. Register online and pay in person (cash or check).

For more information about this class and the extended Activity Center calendar, visit bit.ly/smecactivitycenter.





Women are invited to this study group on the mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationship. If yours is difficult, we can offer hope; if yours is great, we can learn from you.

Wednesdays

Jan. 11 – March 1 • 10:30 a.m. – noon or 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Student Life Center

Each class is limited to the first 20 who register.

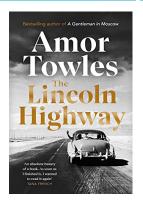
To sign up or for more information, contact Graham Neuhaus at geneuhaus@aol.com.

"A Change of Heart" is available for purchase in St. Martin's Gift Shoppe.

Session one should be completed for the first meeting.



DAY GROUP



1–2:30 p.m. | Wednesday, Jan. 11 Children's Life Center, Room 132 and Via Zoom | bit.ly/faithinlitdayzoom

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 Amanda DeViney at adeviney@stmartinsepiscopal.org.



- Sterlings_Market
- SterlingsMarket



Fresh Goods for Fresh Start

Saturday, Jan. 14 • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Rain or Shine • Sage and Woodway

Learn more and sign up to volunteer at sterlingsmarket.org





MARATHON SUNDAY

JANUARY 15

Runners in the Chevron Houston Marathon may not be running by St. Martin's, but your drive to church may require a few extra twists and turns on the following streets:

- Eastbound Woodway Drive traffic (west of Chimney Rock) will be forced to turn south on Chimney Rock.
- Eastbound traffic on Memorial Drive (west of Chimney Rock) will be forced to go north on Chimney Rock.







LEARN • LOVE • LIVE

SUNDAYS, JAN. 15-FEB. 26 10:15-11 A.M.

ACTIVITY CENTER, UPPER HALL

Join the Rev. John Sundara to learn how the Episcopal Church is like other Christian churches and what makes our Anglican heritage unique. Time will be spent discussing "The Book of Common Prayer," the Sacraments, and the Church's history and polity. Adults have the opportunity to be prepared for confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church by attending confirmation class.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Juli Browning at jbrowning@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Family Dinners



Sunday, Jan. 15 5-7 p.m. Student Life Center

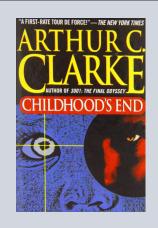
Studentsingrades6-12andtheirfamiliesareinvitedtoSundaydinner hostedbyStudentMinistries.Thisisagreatopportunitytoshareameal and build community.

Please email students@stmartinsepiscopal.org to RSVP to ensure an accurate headcount for dinner.



EVENING GROUP

Tuesday, Jan. 17 | 7-8:30 p.m. Children's Life Center, Room 109 and Via Zoom | bit.ly/faithinliteveningzoom



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 Amanda DeViney at adeviney@stmartinsepiscopal.org.





SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS RESUME IN FEBRUARY

St. Martin's new small group ministry, "Just For," continues with a new series starting in February focused on the Book of Jonah. Beginning Jan. 15, interested Parishioners will be able to sign up on St. Martin's website and choose a group to join based on the location, day and time it meets. Groups will meet throughout the city once a week for four weeks. Each group will follow a curriculum and videos produced by St. Martin's Clergy.

For more information, please contact the Rev. Wesley Arning, or Kathy Johnson, Director of Membership, at smallgroups@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

A VERY SPECIAL LENTEN RETREAT:

Icon Writing with Teresa Harrison



Monday – Thursday, March 20 – 23 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, March 24 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The ancient technique of icon writing inspires prayerful meditation, both while creating the art and reflecting on the finished piece. This four-day retreat includes Eucharist, chant, prayer, silence and lively conversation. Beginners and experienced iconographers are welcome!

Reserve your space at bit.ly/iconography2023



Student Mission Trips

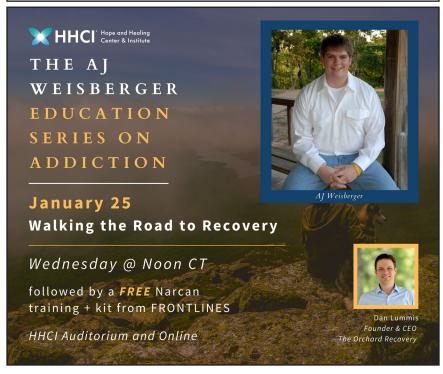
The deadline to register for these trips is March 31.







For more information about the trips and scholarships, contact Florence Ritchie at fritchie@stmartinsepiscopal.org or 713-985-3843.



Witness to Dignity

The Life and Faith of George H.W. and Barbara Bush

Just Published.

This book offers a personal insight into the life and faith of St. Martin's Parishioners President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush by our Rector, Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

Available at St. Martin's Gift Shoppe or anywhere you purchase Christian books.







TEXT
Text SMEC to 73256



MAIL

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



ONLINE

bit.ly/smecgiving



BEQUESTS

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

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

SUNDAY PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. David Henning

Director of Music and Parish Organist dhenning@stmartinsepiscopal.org

Ms. Carole Nelson

Coordinator of Children's Music Ministries cnelson@stmartinsepiscopal.org

The Rev. Jane P. Ferguson

Associate for Student and Family Ministries jferguson@stmartinsepiscopal.org

Mrs. Ashley Monachelli

Director of Children's Ministry amonachelli@stmartinsepiscopal.org

Mrs. Kathy Johnson

Director of Membership kjohnson@stmartinsepiscopal.org

ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

Vestry Executive Committee

Mr. Matt Anderson, Senior Warden

Mrs. Diane Campbell, Junior Warden

Mrs. Casey Hedges, Missions Chair

Mr. Tommy Ford, Treasurer

Mr. Gib Surles, Clerk

Mr. Jim Hibbert, Past Senior Warden

Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., Parish Stewardship Chair

Mr. Andy Harvin, Chancellor*

Vestry Members

Mrs. Michelle Bain

Mrs. Nancy Bynon

Mrs. Elizabeth Dukes

Mrs. Whitney Gormley

Mr. Ryan LaRue

Mr. Dan Meyer

Mr. Matt Mogas

Mr. Roy W. Nichol

Mr. Bob Parkey

The Hon. John Wooldridge

Associate Members

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

Mr. Jon Clarkson, Senior Council Representative 2022-2023

Mr. Richard Nelson, Senior Council Representative 2022-2023

Mrs. Janet Hoover, Altar Guild President 2022-2023

Mrs. Dee Frappier, ECW President 2022-2023

Mr. Jim McCulloch, Men of St. Martin's President 2022-2023

Mr. Bob Porter, Usher Representative 2022-2023

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



Mrs. Casey Hedges Vestry Representative

OUR CLERGY

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. R. Wesley Arning
Associate for Young Adults and
Small Group Ministry
rwarning@stmartinsepiscopal.org



The Rev. John D. SundaraVicar for Worship and Evangelism
jsundara@stmartinsepiscopal.org



The Rev. Naomi Sundara Chaplain to the Preschool nsundara@stmartinsepiscopal.org



The Rev. Lisa R. Neilson *Vicar for Pastoral Care*lneilson@stmartinsepiscopal.org



The Rev. John R. Bentley, Jr.Pastoral Associate
jbentley@stmartinsepiscopal.org



The Rev. Dr. Susannah E. McBay, Ph.D.Associate for Christian Education
and Riverway



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



The Rev. Alex D. Graham III

Associate for Children and

Family Ministries

agraham@stmartinsepiscopal.org

smcbay@stmartinsepiscopal.org



The Rev. Nicolas (Nick) R. D. Dyke *Pastoral Associate* ndyke@stmartinsepiscopal.org



The Rev. Jane P. FergusonAssociate for Family and
Student Ministries
jferguson@stmartinsepiscopal.org



The Rev. Richard (Dick) H. ElwoodPastoral Associate
delwood@stmartinsepiscopal.org



The Rev. Gillian (Gill) B. KeyworthDeacon
gkeyworth@stmartinsepiscopal.org

WE INVITE YOU TO KEEP THIS BOOKLET FOR REFERENCE.

