

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22, 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.



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

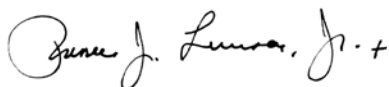
FROM THE RECTOR

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.

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Eucharist at 7 a.m. is a spoken service. Musical pieces in this booklet will be skipped or replaced by spoken liturgy, as noted.

VOLUNTARY “Prayer”

Gabriel Pierné

All stand following the greeting.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect (kneel)

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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.

THE LESSON 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet

are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

HYMN 707 (vs. 1).....“Take My Life”

1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;

take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.

take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Words: Francis Ridley Havargal (1836–1879), alt.; Music: *Hollingside*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823–1876).

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPELMatthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining lectionary for the day is on page 19.

HYMN 707 (vs. 2).....“Take My Life”



1 Take my life, and let it be con-se-crated, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my voice, and let me sing al-ways, on-ly, for my King;



take my mo-ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
take my in-tel-lect, and use ev-ery power as thou shalt choose.



Take my hands, and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love;
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long-er mine.



take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy-al throne.
Take my-self, and I will be ev-er, on-ly, all for thee.

Words: Francis Ridley Havargal (1836–1879), alt.; Music: *Hollingside*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823–1876).

Please be seated.

THE SERMON The Rev. R. Wesley Arning

After the Sermon, all stand, and the Minister invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance: by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

The Minister says the following prayer over the ashes to be imposed.

The ushers come forward during the prayer to assist worshipers to the Altar Rail.

Almighty God, thou hast created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by thy gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The Minister invites those who desire the imposition of ashes to come to the Altar Rail.

The ashes are imposed with the following words

Remember that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.

PSALM 51 (*said by all at 7 a.m.; chanted by choir at noon and 6 p.m.*)

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your
loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, *
**and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.**
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE *(kneel)*

People and Litanist

Most holy and merciful Father:

**We confess to thee and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

The Litanist continues

We have not loved thee with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

All: Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

We have been deaf to thy call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved thy Holy Spirit.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

We confess to thee, O Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Accept our repentance, O Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For our waste and pollution of thy creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let thy anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for thy mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of thy salvation.

That we may show forth thy glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of thy Son our Lord,

Bring us with all thy saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, hath given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolveth all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; 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 23 for upcoming events.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM “Remember Not, Lord, Our Offenses”
Henry Purcell

Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers;
neither take thou vengeance of our sins, but spare us, good Lord.
Spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious
blood, and be not angry with us forever. Spare us, good Lord.

Words: From the litany. Music: Henry Purcell (1659-1695). © 2010 Oxford University Press.

AT THE PRESENTATION

(7 a.m.)

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord;

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

DOXOLOGY *Gardiner*

All things are thine; no gift have we, Lord of all

gifts, to of - fer thee; And hence with grate - ful hearts to -

day Thine own be - fore thy feet we lay.

Text, John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; Music, *Gardiner*, William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815; By permission of Houghton Mifflin Company.

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.**

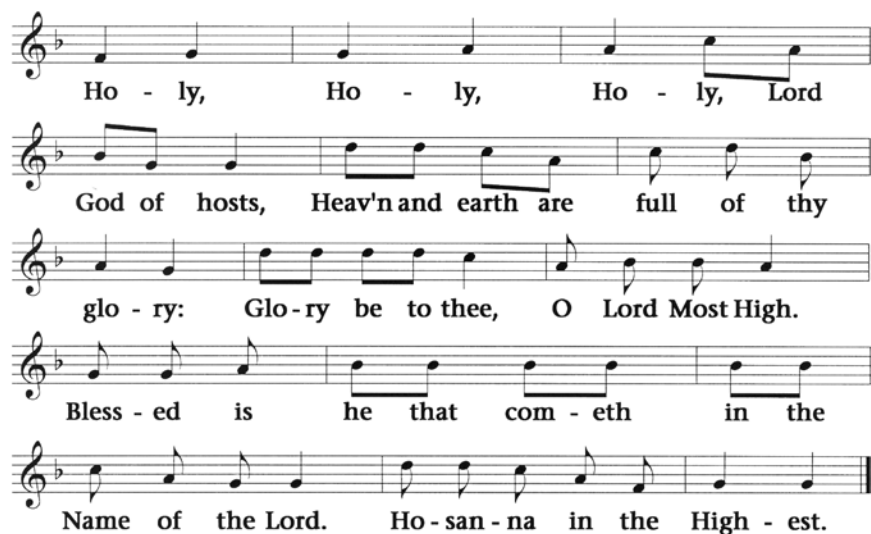
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

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 7 a.m.; sung at noon and 6 p.m.)



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

The Celebrant continues (kneel)

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of 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, he brake 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 ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, 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, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, 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; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ’s holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with 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

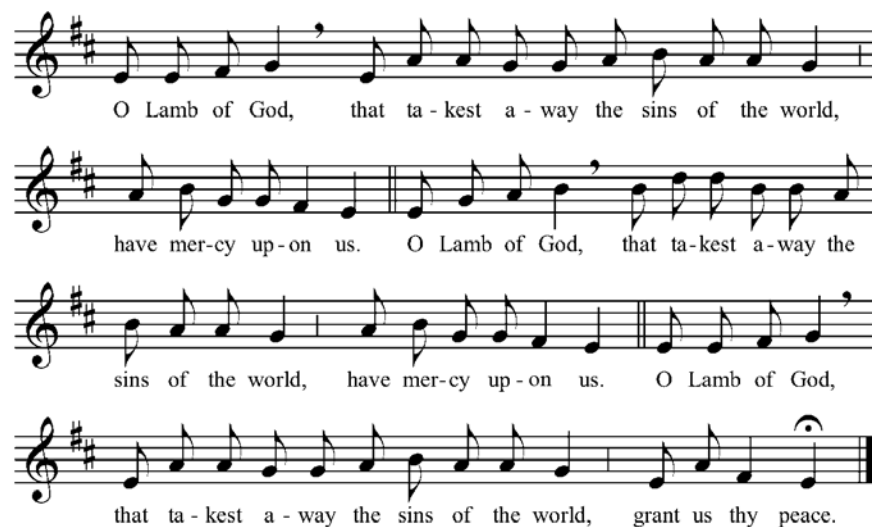
People and Celebrant

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.

Celebrant and People (said at 7 a.m.; sung at noon and 6 p.m.)



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world,
have mer-cy up-on us. O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the
sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Lamb of God,
that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

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

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, and of the Son and of 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 “Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake”
Richard Farrant

Lord, for thy tender mercy’s sake, lay not our sins to our charge. But forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives, to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee now and ever more. Amen.

Text: J. Bull, *Christian Prayers and Holy Meditations*.

HYMN 645“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness
 2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed
 * 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 * 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear
 5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion
 6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



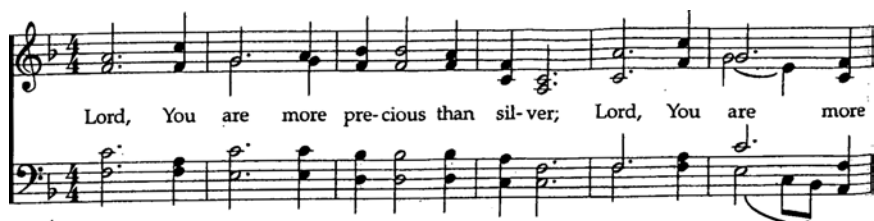
1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
 2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant
 3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der
 4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my
 5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port
 6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.
 2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-lestial feed-eth.
 3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.
 4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.
 5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!
 6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821–1877); para. Psalm 23; Music: *St. Columba*, Irish melody, harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

HYMN "Lord, You Are More Precious"



Lord, You are more pre-cious than sil-ver; Lord, You are more

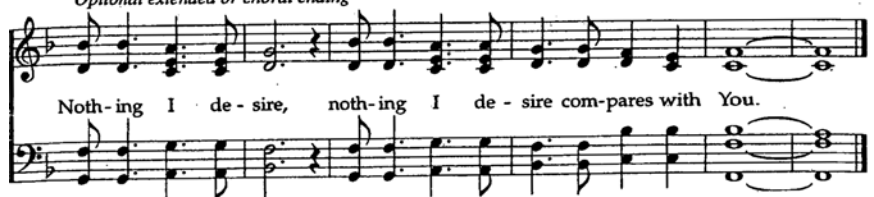


cost-ly than gold. Lord, You are more beau-ti-ful than



dia-monds, And noth-ing I de-sire com-pares with You.

Optional extended or choral ending



Noth-ing I de-sire, noth-ing I de-sire com-pares with You.

Text and Music: Lynn DeShazo; © 1982, Lynn DeShazo (ADMIN. by Integrity's Hosanna! Music c/o Integrity Music, Inc.). CCLI #805314.

HYMN “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores thee! My

heart is glad to say the— words: thou art ho - ly, Lord.

Music: Geoff Weaver, Arr. © 1993 Geoff Weaver/Jubilate Hymns. (Admin. by Hope Publishing Co.) All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-705539.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY BLESSING

All stand.

HYMN 142 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, and didst the vic-tory win,
3 As thou didst hun-ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra-cious Lord,
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas-sion - tide,
5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,

1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838–1898); Music: *St. Flavian*, melody from *Day's Psalter*, 1562; adapt. and harm. Richard Redhead (1820–1901).

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Ash Wednesday is one of three solemn days in the Church year
when the Clergy do not greet worshipers at the Church door.*

OTHER READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE OLD TESTAMENTJoel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near — a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

THE PSALM Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities; He redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness; He satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's. The Lord executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed. He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger for ever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us. As a father cares for his children, so does the Lord care for those who fear him. For he himself knows whereof we are made; he remembers that we are but dust. Our days are like the grass; we flourish like a flower of the field; When the wind goes over it, it is gone, and its place shall know it no more. But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, and his righteousness on children's children; On those who keep his covenant and remember his commandments and do them. The Lord has set his throne in heaven, and his kingship has dominion over all. Bless the Lord, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, and hearken to the voice of his word. Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, you ministers of his who do his will. Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul.

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	Nicole Jabbari	Jim and Jan Stokes
Carolyn Alban	Ronnie Jacobs, Jr.	James Swann
Harvey and Katie Altmann	Lynda Jones	Nancy Talbot
Patsy Angel	Mary Anne Kannard	Martin Taylor
Shelly Bain	Muriel Kearby Albaral	Paul Therrien
Pam Bentley	Paige Laird	Mimi Thobae
Anne Berry	Sherman Lasker	Carlotta Thomas
Cory Blackman	Stan Leong	Millie Tonn
Dianne Brock	McKenna Letsos	Jane Touchstone
Paul Case	Shawn Levenson	Sue Uthe
Don Cheatham	Patricia Levy	Randy Vander Naillen
Higdon Compton, Jr.	Nancy Liles	Mae Joyce and Grant Wagner
Beth Costa	Nicole Lockney	Janice Waits Murphy
Gail Davis	Ryan Logan	Mike Webb
Mac Davis	Marie Lord	Charles Werlla
Sue Davis	Greg Martin	Roger Williams
Tommy W. Davis	Pat Marymee	Vern Wilson
Arlo Dayanand	Jack Mayfield	Eric Zoerb
Bobby deSosa	Janet McDaniel	Angela
Linda deSosa	Patricia McDonald	Anne
Rosemary Doupe	Christine Nguyen	Barbara
Ross Dunn	Nwora Onwuzulu	Betsey
Kiersten Dyke	Jim Paddock	Dean
Jim Easterling	Russell Pae	Elizabeth
Stacey and John Elliott	Jimmy Prentice	Eric and Family
Mayfield Family	Stephen Preston	Henry
Charles Flores	Michael Reade	Jana
Brad Gallion	Ted Reed	Landry
Chris Gaylen	Susan Rovello	Laura
Catherine Gonzales	Baker Rudolph	Leslie
Nancy Gore	David Samuelson	Marilyn
Shea Guinn	Helen and Jim Shaffer	Mary Jane
Gladys Halbouty	Caroline Shanahan	Michael
Dow Hamm III	Megan Sharkey	Naomi
Connie Haney	Clif Shoemake	Willie
Susie C. Hatfield	Ryan Smith	
Mollie Hill	William and Betsy Smith	
Jeff Holden	Mark Solomons	
Marilyn Ingham	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 vrivera@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
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
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

SERMON NOTES

LIFEgroups

ASH WEDNESDAY

Student Ministries Simple Supper and
Riverway Ash Wednesday Services

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

5:30–8 p.m.

Student Life Center, Dinner
Parish Life Center, Program

Life Groups for students in grades 6–12 are invited to take part in a simple supper, followed by worship at the Riverway Eucharist Service with Imposition of Ashes.



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bit.ly/smecuto

United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church is a way to practice gratitude and change the world during the 40 days of Lent.

Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box or UTO Envelope.

One-hundred percent of all funds given to UTO are granted the following year to support innovative mission and ministry in the Episcopal Church.



The Episcopal Church Women of St. Martin's Present

ECW SPRING BRUNCH

FEATURING

Jeanne Celestine Lakin

Faith and Forgiveness

Tuesday, Feb. 28

10 a.m. – noon

Parish Life Center

\$40 • Table for 10, \$400



Register at

bit.ly/2023ecwspringbrunch

The Episcopal Church Women of St. Martin's welcome award-winning author Jeanne Celestine Lakin. Lakin was 9 years old when her parents and nearly all of her adult relatives were killed in 1994's Rwandan government's ethnic massacre.

Lakin is the author of "A Voice in the Darkness: Memoir of a Rwandan Genocide Survivor."

Visit **avoiceinthedarkness.org** to learn more.

Committee Chairs:

Shelly Newton and Jane Garness

For more information, please contact Valerie Rivera at vriviera@stmartinsepiscopal.org or 713-985-3817.



BIG
SUNDAY

SAFARI

EDITION

Feb. 26 • 5–7 p.m. • Student Life Center



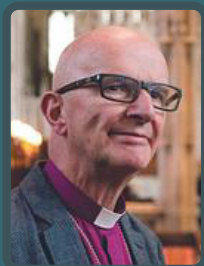
It's Dinosaur Month! All students in grades 6–12 are invited and welcome to bring a friend!

717
STUDENTS

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT LENTEN SERIES



As one of the 20th century's most famous atheists-turned-Christians, C.S. Lewis has much to offer as Christians consider the heart of this Season of Lent: repentance and change. With a different speaker for each week, culminating in a screening of Max McClean's film "A Reluctant Convert," the series will explore different dynamics of change and renewal through the lens of Lewis' writings.



The Rt. Rev. Mike Hill

55th Bishop of Bristol

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Holy Eucharist | The Church 5:30 p.m.

Dinner | Bagby Parish Hall 5:45 p.m.

Program | Bagby Parish Hall 6:30 p.m.



SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR *Healing and Wholeness*



St. Martin's International Order of St. Luke (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, March 1 | 5 p.m.
Parish Life Center or via Zoom
bit.ly/oslservice

For more information, please contact Amanda DeViney
at adeviney@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON ADULT LENTEN SERIES:



Thursday, March 2

4 p.m.

Chapel Reception Hall

During Lent, St. Martin's Clergy will share their stories of change. Following Jesus brings with it changes of all kinds: from personal change within, to change in careers, geography and more. What is it like when God turns a person 180 degrees? What lessons have the Clergy learned and what wisdom do they have to share? Come join them on Thursday afternoons to discover their path to being closer to God.



***The Rev.**
John D. Sundara
Vicar for Worship and
Evangelism*

Witness to Dignity

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

From AMAZON reviews

"Bought for myself, but now I want to buy for all my family and am telling friends they NEED to read it. I laughed, I cried - what a fabulous book about wonderful people."

— Jane M. Osborne

5.0 out of 5 stars



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on December 6, 2022 · Verified Purchase



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Houston, TX 77056



ONLINE

bit.ly/smecgiving



BEQUESTS

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



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OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

SUNDAY PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. David Henning

Director of Music and Parish Organist
dhenning@stmartinseiscopal.org

Ms. Carole Nelson

Coordinator of Children's Music Ministries
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The Rev. Jane P. Ferguson

Associate for Student and Family Ministries
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Mrs. Ashley Monachelli

Director of Children's Ministry
amonachelli@stmartinseiscopal.org

Mrs. Kathy Johnson

Director of Membership
kjohnson@stmartinseiscopal.org

ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

Vestry Executive Committee

Mr. Tommy Ford, *Senior Warden*
Mrs. Michelle Bain, *Junior Warden*
Mr. Gib Surles, *Missions Chair*
Mr. Dan Meyer, *Treasurer*
Mr. Ryan LaRue, *Clerk*
Mr. Matt Anderson, *Past Senior Warden*
Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., *Parish Stewardship Chair*
Mr. Andy Harvin, *Chancellor**

Vestry Members

Mrs. Nancy Bynon
Mrs. Elizabeth Dukes
Mrs. Whitney Gormley
Mr. Will Hedges
Mr. Matt Mogas
Mr. Roy W. Nichol
Ms. Sherrie Perkins
Mrs. Courtney Schilling
Mr. Logan Walters
Mr. Milton West

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*

**Denotes Associate Vestry filled at the discretion of the Rector.*



Mr. Matthew Mogas
Vestry Representative
7 a.m.



Mr. Dan Meyer
Vestry Representative
Noon

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



The Rev. Naomi B. Sundara
Chaplain to the Preschool
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The Rev. Lisa R. Neilson
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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
smcbay@stmartinsepiscopal.org



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



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



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



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



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



Mrs. Whitney Gormley
Vestry Representative
6 p.m.

WE INVITE YOU TO
KEEP THIS BOOKLET
FOR REFERENCE.

*717 Sage Road
Houston, TX 77056
713-621-3040*

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