

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

---

*December 3, 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

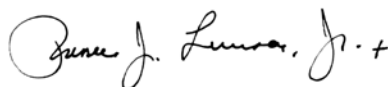
---

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.*

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

# THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

## DECEMBER 3

### Adults

#### **8+ with the Rev. Sharron Cox**

Lectionary-based Bible Study

8:55-9:25 a.m.

Chapel Reception Hall

#### **Theology for Life with the Rev. John Sundara**

"Blessed are Those who Know Their Need of God: A 12-week Survey of the Sermon on the Mount"

*A Christian's Ambition: Investing in the Unseen – Matthew 6:19-33*

10:15-11 a.m.

Bagby Parish Hall

#### **Contemplative Prayer Hour with the Rev. Sharron Cox**

10:15-11 a.m.

Pastoral Care Center, Bride's Parlor

#### **Family Life Class**

Breakfast Club

10:15-11 a.m.

Activity Center, Game Room

#### **Seekers with the Rev. Dick Elwood**

Lectionary-based Bible Study

10:15-11 a.m.

Activity Center, Aerobics Room

#### **Advent Art Discussion**

Q&A with artists

10:15-11 a.m.

Parish Life Center Narthex

*For more information about Adult Christian Education, contact Amanda DeViney at 713-830-4110 or [adeviney@smec.org](mailto:adeviney@smec.org).*

## 7-1-7 Students

### **Sunday Get-Togethers**

For students in grades 6-12

10:15-11 a.m.

Student Life Center, Living Room

*For more information about 7-1-7 Students, contact Florence Ritchie at 713-985-3843 or [students@smec.org](mailto:students@smec.org).*

## Children's Ministry

### **Children's Sunday School**

For children through grade 5

10:15-11 a.m.

Children's Life Center

Childcare is available during all morning services for infants through three-year-olds.

*For more information about Children's Ministry, contact Rocio Velazquez at 713-985-3807 or [rvelazquez@smec.org](mailto:rvelazquez@smec.org).*

## Music Ministry

### **Young Singers of St. Martin's**

For children and youth in grades 1-12

8:15 a.m. | Rehearsal in Children's Life Center

9:15 a.m. | Family Table service in Parish Life Center

*For more information about Young Singers of St. Martin's, contact Carole Nelson at 346-335-8677 or [cnelson@smec.org](mailto:cnelson@smec.org).*

## DECEMBER 4-9

### Adults

### **Saintly Stitchers**

Monday, Dec. 4

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. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or [scox@smec.org](mailto:scox@smec.org).

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Tuesday, Dec. 5

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. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

**Blanket Ladies**

Wednesday, Dec. 6

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. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

**St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild**

Wednesday, Dec. 6

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. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

**Church Tours**

Wednesday, Dec. 6

11 a.m.-noon | The Church

The Docent Guild offers a formal tour of The Church. To schedule a group tour or special tours of The Church windows, Christ Chapel or Campus gardens, please contact the Docent Line at 713-830-4117. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

**St. Martin's 20s & 30s**

Wednesday, Dec. 6

7-9 p.m. | Children Life Center

Young adults meet weekly for a time of fellowship and study. For more information, contact the Rev. Wesley Arning at 346-335-8680 or rwarning@smec.org.

**Parish Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday, Dec. 7

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 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 713-985-3820 or dhenning@smec.org.

## **Sterling's Market**

Saturday, Dec. 9 | Rain or Shine

9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Corner of Woodway and Sage

Sterling's Market at St. Martin's Episcopal Church glorifies God through sharing the Gospel and the bounties of the earth with Parishioners, neighbors and visitors. For more information, contact Justin Avery at 713-985-3838 or [info@sterlingsmarket.org](mailto:info@sterlingsmarket.org).

## **Men**

### **Men of St. Martin's**

Thursday, Dec. 7

7-8 a.m. | Bagby Parish Hall

This men's group meets for fellowship, mutual support and Bible study. For more information, contact the Rev. John Sundara at 713-985-3842 or [jsundara@smec.org](mailto:jsundara@smec.org).

### **Dads' Bible Study**

Thursday, Dec. 7

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 346-335-8680 or [rwarning@smec.org](mailto:rwarning@smec.org).

## **Women**

### **Christian Life Study**

Tuesday, Dec. 5 – Evening Group | 6:30-8 p.m. | Children's Life Center and via Zoom

Thursday, Dec. 7 – 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 [lgallien@smec.org](mailto:lgallien@smec.org).

## **7-1-7 Students**

### **Life Groups**

Wednesday, Dec. 6

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 346-335-8659 or [jferguson@smec.org](mailto:jferguson@smec.org).

# HOLY EUCHARIST

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

VOLUNTARY ..... “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Page Long

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

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

\*HYMN 56 ..... “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!



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

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

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

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

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## KYRIE

*(8 a.m.)*

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

*(9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.)*

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy". The second staff contains the lyrics: "up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us." The music consists of simple eighth and quarter notes.

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

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. *(kneel)*

*The Celebrant says the Collect*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



THE LESSON ..... Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

HYMN 4 [1940 Hymnal] (vs. 1-2).....“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

*Joyously*

1 Re - joyce, re - joyce, be - liev - ers! And let your lights ap - pear;  
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; Re - plen - ish them with oil;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
Look now for your sal - va - tion, The end of sin and toil.

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, And soon he will draw nigh;  
The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;

Up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! At mid - night comes the cry.  
Go meet him as he com - eth, With al - le - lu - ias clear.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1700, tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1854, alt.; Music: *Greenland*, Johann Michael Haydn, 1819.

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

**People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

**T H E G O S P E L** .....Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

*The remaining lectionary for the day is on page 25.*

**HYMN 4** [1940 Hymnal] (vs. 3).....“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

*Joyously*

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers! And let your lights ap - pear;  
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; Re - plen - ish them with oil;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
Look now for your sal - va - tion, The end of sin and toil.

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, And soon he will draw nigh;  
The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;

Up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! At mid - night comes the cry.  
Go meet him as he com - eth, With al - le - lu - ias clear.

3 Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, thou Sun so longed for,  
O'er this benighted sphere!  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption,  
And ever be with thee!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1700, tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1854, alt.; Music: *Greenland*, Johann Michael Haydn, 1819.

*Please be seated.*

---

THE SERMON ..... “Preserving Something Precious”  
*The Rev. John D. Sundara*

---

THE NICENE CREED

*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

*(kneel) (responsively)*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

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

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in thy mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

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

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

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

**Hear our prayer.**

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

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

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 Church of North India (United); for all bishops, priests and deacons. For Joe, our President, Greg, our Governor, Sylvester, our Mayor, and the Congress and the Courts; for all who serve in our armed forces and their families; for persecuted Christians; for an end to war and conflict; for all the blessings of this life, especially those remembered today with Altar flowers, \_\_.

I invite your own prayers and intercessions.

*A period of silence, during which people may add their own petitions quietly or in the privacy of their hearts.*

*Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

*Minister says*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

*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.**

*Please be seated.*

---

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please see page 29 for upcoming events.*

---



# THE OFFERTORY

## ANTHEM ..... “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, Who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell there-in, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon! E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Text: Revelation 22, Adapted by Ruth Manz; Music: Paul Manz; Copyright ©1954 Morning Star Music Publishers.

## AT THE PRESENTATION

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

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord;

**People: And of thine own have we given thee.**

## DOXOLOGY ..... *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise  
him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye  
heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637–1711); Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Psaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?–1561?).

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

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

## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

*(said at 8 a.m., sung at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.)*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord  
God of hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy  
glo - ry: Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Bless - ed is he that com - eth in the  
Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.

*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.*

*(said at 8 a.m., sung at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. 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.

*Then may be said by the Celebrant and People*

## 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 Clergy administering Communion if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.*

**ANTHEM** ..... “Thou Shalt Know Him”

Mark Sirett

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums, nor his manners, nor his airs, nor by anything he wears. Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or by his gown, but his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee. Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen, amen.

© 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

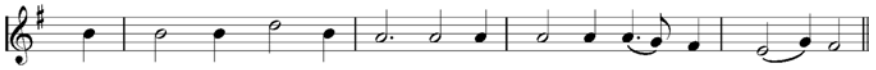
**HYMN 65** ..... “Prepare the Way, O Zion”



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



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



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

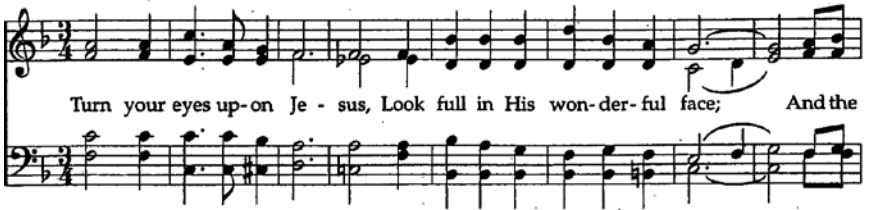
*Refrain*



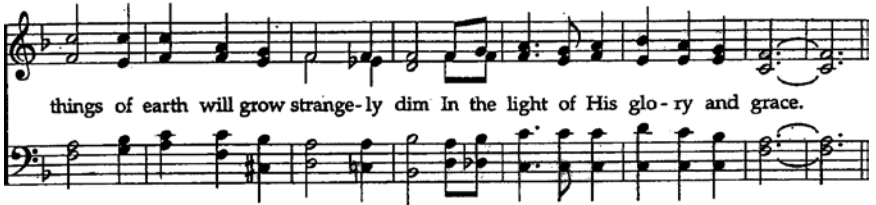
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

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

**HYMN** ..... “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”



Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, Look full in His won - der - ful face; And the



things of earth will grow strange - ly dim In the light of His glo - ry and grace.

Text: Helen H. Lemmel; Music: *Lemmel*, Helen H. Lemmel, Public domain.

HYMN .....“I Love You, Lord”

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to wor - ship

you, O my soul, re - joice! Take joy, my King, in

what you hear: may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

Text and Music: Laurie Klein; (c) 1978 by House of Mercy Music. All rights reserved, UBP, CCLI #805314.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says (kneel)*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**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.*



**HYMN 57** .....“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
 daz - zling bo - dy bears; cause of end - less  
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788); Music: *Helmsey*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710–1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958), alt.

**THE DISMISSAL**

*A Minister says the dismissal. Alleluias are omitted during the season of Advent.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**VOLUNTARY** .....“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”  
 Johannes Brahms

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

# RECOGNITIONS

---



## BAPTISMS

Nov. 25      Weston Robert Duin



## SYMPATHY

Nov. 13      Darcy Anne Conway

Nov. 15      Betty Summers Mann

To mark a special occasion with an altar flower dedication,  
visit [bit.ly/smecaltarflowers](http://bit.ly/smecaltarflowers) or contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam  
at [relhakam@smec.org](mailto:relhakam@smec.org).

# READINGS FOR THE DAY

---

## THE PSALM ..... Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

## THE EPISTLE ..... 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

# 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:

Robin Adair	Shawn Levenson
Bobbie Adams	Nancy Liles
Carolyn Alban	Ryan Logan
Katie and Harvey Altmann	Bella Martin
Ally Babineaux	Ronnie Martin
Shelly Bain	Jack Mayfield
Kathy Beadnell	Janet McDaniel
Bob Beeley	Sandra McHenry
Larry Biedenharn	Barbara McMahan
Cory Blackman	Margaret Milner
Kenny Brown	Clarine Naskrent
Cole Cattan	Stuart Nixon
Debbie Chernosky	Ann Noel
Doug Clarke	Deborah Oliver
Hallie Cooley	Andrew O'Malley
Michael Craig	Bob Paddock
Gail Davis	Jim Paddock
Ross Dunn	Judy Peach
Kiersten Dyke	Betty Polando
Jim Easterling	Joseph Powell
Stacey and John Elliott	Ted Reed
Nancy Ellison	Marjorie Reeks
Charles Flores	Phyllis Reinhardt
Julie G.	Monica Rivera
Catherine Gonzales	John Davis Roady
Nancy Gore	Joe Rodriguez
Ann Halverson	Suzzy Schuwerk
Amy Heath	Helen and Jim Shaffer
Mollie Hill	Clif Shoemake
Marilyn Ingham	Bob Spencer
Mary and Jim Jennings	Paul Therrien
Mary Anne Kannard	Mary Watters
Candi Keebler	Eric Zoerb
Dick Kilday	Atticus
Anne Kurtzahn	Henry
Reggie Lang	Laura
Rhea Latta	Lynne
Bruce Michael Lee	

---

Please be advised that we will be updating the Continuing Prayers list twice a year in the weeks after Easter and All Saints' Day. The list will be completely redone. To add or remove someone on the Continuing Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or [vriviera@smec.org](mailto:vriviera@smec.org).

# CONTINUING PRAYERS

---

Prayers for those on Active Military Duty in the Armed Forces:

Lt. Col. Wesley J. Hunnell

Capt. Jack Mullen

2nd Lt. Alex Mullen

Lt. Paul Piana

---

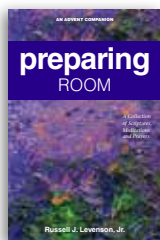
Please be advised that each year the week after Veterans Day, this list will be completely redone. To add or remove someone on the Military Service Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or [vriviera@smec.org](mailto:vriviera@smec.org).

# SERMON NOTES

---

# Advent Resources

Prepare for this solemn and wonderful season with these special resources:



## **“Preparing Room” by the Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.**

- Scriptures key to telling the Christmas story as it centers on Jesus
- Brief meditations to help readers step more deeply into the Advent story
- Reflections on how to prepare just a bit more room for the King
- Prayers for Judeo-Christian tradition or by the author



## **“Advent Wreath Devotional” by Laura and Russ Levenson**

The “Advent Wreath Devotional” in both adult and children’s versions provides a framework within which to traverse the Advent season.

Available for sale through St. Martin’s Gift Shoppe.  
Contact Barbara Shoemaker at [bshoemaker@smec.org](mailto:bshoemaker@smec.org) or 713-985-3840 for more information.



## **EL SALVADOR INFORMATION MEETING**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 3**

**10:15 A.M.**

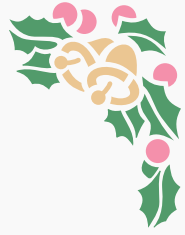
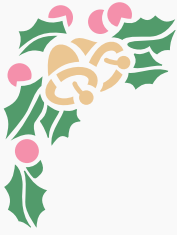
**ACTIVITY CENTER, FAMILY ROOM**

**Trip Dates: March 9–14, 2024**

Adults and families will be heading back to San Salvador, El Salvador to serve with St. Martin’s ministry partner Kurt Ackermann and his organization Sus Hijos.

Mission Trip registration now open at [bit.ly/2024elsalvadormissiontrip](https://bit.ly/2024elsalvadormissiontrip)

For more information, contact Courtney Kearns at [ckearns@smec.org](mailto:ckearns@smec.org) or 713-985-3819.



# Advent Festival

SUNDAY, DEC. 3

4-6 P.M. • BAGBY PARISH HALL

Please join us for an Advent celebration! Make a family Advent wreath then enjoy a pancake dinner. Fresh evergreens and supplies will be available to make the wreath. Please come join the fun!

To register and purchase a ticket, visit [bit.ly/adventfamilyfest](http://bit.ly/adventfamilyfest).

*(tickets are \$5 per family member)*

For more information, contact Rocio Velazquez at  
[rvelazquez@smec.org](mailto:rvelazquez@smec.org) or 713-985-3807.

 RIVERWAY

*Celebration Sunday!*

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries with Riverway for  
the months of November and December.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3

Parish Life Center Narthex

*Following the 11:15 a.m. services*

We invite everyone who has had a recent birthday or anniversary to  
join us in acknowledgement of your special day, and share a dessert  
or breakfast item with us. Everyone is welcome!

For more information, contact Amanda DeViney at  
713-830-4110 or [adeviney@smec.org](mailto:adeviney@smec.org).





## TOUR A GOTHIC-STYLE CHURCH WITHOUT LEAVING HOUSTON!

**SUNDAY, DEC. 3**

**Following the 11:15 a.m. service**

**Meet in the Narthex**

St. Martin's docents offer free, public and private tours.

Everyone is welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

To schedule a tour, please call St. Martin's Docent Guild at 713-830-4117 and leave a contact name and number for a return call.

## Joyful Living JOYFUL GIVING

2024 Stewardship is here! Please join us and prayerfully consider what St. Martin's means to you and your family and make an annual commitment in the form of an annual pledge. We are grateful for your stewardship pledges. Your generosity makes everything possible.

To make your pledge online, visit  
[bit.ly/smec2024stewardship](https://bit.ly/smec2024stewardship)

Questions? Contact Ashley Pratka, Director of Development,  
at [apratka@smec.org](mailto:apratka@smec.org) or 346-335-8658.

# Christmas Coffee

**Monday, December 4 • 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**At the home of Susie and Jim McCulloch**

*Christmas casual attire • Carpooling is highly encouraged • Valet parking will be offered*

In the spirit of the season, please bring an unwrapped gift for children ages 5-17 to be given to DePelchin Children's Center and Christian Community Service Center.

Gift Wish List: Gift cards (\$15-\$20 to Walmart, Target, Academy, H-E-B or Kroger), clothes, board games, puzzles, Legos, arts-and-crafts kits and balls.

Kindly RSVP by visiting  
**[bit.ly/ecwchristmascoffee](https://bit.ly/ecwchristmascoffee)**

For more information, contact Valerie Rivera at  
713-985-3817 or [vrivera@smec.org](mailto:vrivera@smec.org)

## 2024 WHCSA Basketball League at St. Martin's

**Registration closes December 10!**

- 8-Game schedule runs January–March.
- Pre-K (age 4) through 5th Grade (age 11) may register.
- Registration (\$245) includes uniforms and pictures. Coaches and volunteers also needed!



**Register today at [bit.ly/smecbball2024](https://bit.ly/smecbball2024)**



For questions, contact Emily Lermann, Director of Basketball Operations, at 239-410-8749 or [emily.lermann@fitcasa.com](mailto:emily.lermann@fitcasa.com).

To learn more about the Activity Center, contact Sarah-Hampton Cambas at 713-985-3835 or [scambas@smec.org](mailto:scambas@smec.org).

# The Moms' Group

## OUTREACH EVENT AND COFFEE

Wednesday, Dec. 6

9:15–10:30 a.m.

Student Life Center Living Room

In this meeting, we will gather to put together hygiene kits and children's items for the Riverside Project.

To contribute to the Riverside Project Amazon wish list, visit [a.co/fK6HVJ0](https://www.amazon.com/?ref=AWS_C&pf_rd_p=81111111-1111-1111-1111-111111111111).

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



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, Dec. 6 | 5 p.m.

Parish Life Center or via Zoom

[bit.ly/oslservice](https://bit.ly/oslservice)

For more information, contact Amanda DeViney at 713-830-4110 or [adeviney@smec.org](mailto:adeviney@smec.org).

# ADVENT

## QUIET DAY

### THE PRAYERS OF ADVENT

SPONSORED BY THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

SATURDAY, DEC. 9 | 9 A.M. – NOON | PARISH LIFE CENTER

The Collects for the season of Advent cover the Advent themes of longing, preparation, waiting and return. St. Martin's Clergy will provide meditations on one of the four Advent Collects to prepare for the celebration of our Lord's birth. The Quiet Day will end with Noonday Prayer.



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



# Cocoa & Carols



SUNDAY, DEC. 10

10:15 a.m. • Children's Life Center

All children Sunday School classes will gather for a fun-filled morning to celebrate the coming of Jesus. During the Sunday school hour, children will listen to a story, enjoy hot cocoa and sing Christmas carols.



For more information, contact Ashley Monachelli at [amonachelli@smec.org](mailto:amonachelli@smec.org) or 713-985-3816.

The graphic features a dark blue night sky with white stars and a large, glowing white moon. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of houses with chimneys. Above the houses, Santa Claus is depicted in his sleigh, pulled by four reindeer, flying across the sky. The text 'Christmas Crash' is written in a large, white, bubbly font with a blue outline, positioned in the upper center of the graphic.

# Christmas Crash

**SUNDAY, DEC. 10**

**5–8 p.m. • Student Life Center  
For Students in Grades 6-12**

Students are encouraged to bring a friend for an awesome night of games, contests dinner and prizes. Wear a tacky Christmas sweater, reindeer antlers or a festive Christmas outfit!

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

The graphic shows a landscape of rolling mountains under a twilight sky. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The mountains are silhouetted against the lighter sky. The text 'Taizé' is written in a large, elegant, white cursive font, and 'PRAYER SERVICE' is written in a smaller, white, all-caps sans-serif font below it.

# Taizé

PRAYER SERVICE

**SUNDAY, DEC. 10**  
**5 p.m. • Christ Chapel**

This quiet and prayerful time apart from the bustle of holiday activities will nourish your soul as you continue preparations for the birth of Christ anew in your heart this Advent season!

For more information, contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam at [relhakam@smec.org](mailto:relhakam@smec.org) or 713-830-4146.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 10**  
**7 P.M.**  
**PARISH LIFE CENTER**



## WAYNE & FRIENDS

### BORN IS THE KING!

Wayne Watson, St. Martin's Director of Contemporary Music, opens the Christmas season with a gathering of talented musicians who will perform an unforgettable concert filled with instrumental Christmas classics, carols and modern Christmas compositions.

**All are welcome! Bring family and friends!**

For more information, contact Amanda DeViney at [adeviney@smec.org](mailto:adeviney@smec.org) or 713-830-4110.



The Giving Tree



## CHRISTMAS CARD PROGRAM



The Giving Tree is a branch of St. Martin's Outreach Ministries, offering Parishioners and the surrounding community the opportunity to honor a loved one on a special occasion through a heartfelt gift that empowers a worthy organization while touching hearts and changing lives.



Order cards at [bit.ly/christmasgivingtree](https://bit.ly/christmasgivingtree).



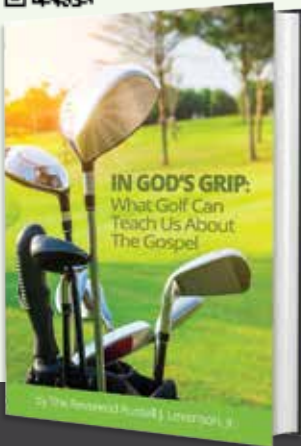
**Deadline to order is Wednesday, Dec. 13.**

For assistance, contact Tracee Tindol at [outreach@smec.org](mailto:outreach@smec.org) or 713-985-3811.

## A NEW BOOK by the Rev. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.



Order Your Copy Today!  
<https://a.co/d/9hypX4Q>



*"This is a book about God's help."*  
— Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

## "IN GOD'S GRIP: What Golf Can Teach Us About The Gospel"

*"This delightful little book on what golf can teach us about the most important questions people have about their lives is a truly great read. As a former teenager caddy at the oldest 18-hole course in North America (the Chicago Golf Club), who caddied for the likes of Charlie Coody, Ben Crenshaw, Tom Weiskopf and others, and is pleased to serve as a divinity school dean, I recommend it wholeheartedly."*

— Dr. Doug Sweeney, Dean of Beeson Divinity School

Place orders now at St. Martin's Gift Shoppe  
or wherever fine books are sold, contact Barbara  
Shoemaker at [bshoemaker@smec.org](mailto:bshoemaker@smec.org) or  
713-985-3834.

## Year-End Contributions to St. Martin's Episcopal Church



The Internal Revenue Service requires that, in order to be tax deductible in 2023, cash, check or credit card contributions to St. Martin's Episcopal Church must be received by the Church or postmarked by the United States Postal Service **no later than Friday, Dec. 29, 2023**; this includes any payments to your 2023 pledge, prepayment of your 2024 pledge and payment of your Building for the Ages pledge. The Finance staff is required to check the postal cancellation dates on all receipts in early January to ensure our legal compliance to this rule.

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



ST. MARTIN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**Sunday, Dec. 24**

**Family Table Services** | 9:15 a.m. • *Parish Life Center*

Come to the first family friendly Christmas Eve service with Holy Eucharist.

11 a.m.\* • *The Church (No Eucharist)*

Music and Nativity Liturgy. This shorter family-friendly service recounts a live Christmas story reenactment.

*\*The service will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube channels.*

**Traditional Services** | 1, 3:30\*, 6 and 8:30 p.m. • *The Church*

Holy Eucharist; festive music by the Parish Choir, Gloria Dei Organ, brass and timpani.

*\*The service will be livestreamed on Facebook and Youtube channels.*

**Riverway Contemporary Service** | 6:30 p.m. • *Parish Life Center*

Join Riverway, a casual, modern service with Holy Eucharist. We will gather and celebrate the birth of our Lord. All are welcome.

*The service will be livestreamed on Riverway's Facebook page.*

## CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

**Monday, Dec. 25**

**Traditional Service** | 11 a.m. • *The Church*

Holy Eucharist; Celebrate our Lord's birth with traditional service with hymns, anthems and the Parish Choir.

### CHILDCARE

For infants to 3-year-olds will be provided at the 9:15 and 11 a.m. services as well as the 1, 3:30 and 6 p.m. services.

For more information, contact Barbara Piana at  
bpiana@smec.org or 713-830-4116.





**HHCI** Hope and Healing  
Center & Institute

**SUPPORT GROUP**

# General Caregiver Support Group (VIRTUAL)

Presented by:



Peggy Determeyer, Ph.D., M.Div., McGee Fellow &  
Director of HHCI CARES and Rabbi Seth M. Stander,  
MAHL, Community Aging Specialist, HHCI CARES

# DEC. 8

Friday @ 10-11 am CT  
Available Online Only



Register today at [hhci.org/events](http://hhci.org/events)

For more information, contact Peggy Determeyer  
at [pdetermeyer@hhci.org](mailto:pdetermeyer@hhci.org) or 346-335-8623

# WAYS *to* GIVE



**TEXT**

Text SMEC to 73256



**MAIL**

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



**ONLINE**

[bit.ly/smecgiving](http://bit.ly/smecgiving)



**BEQUESTS**

Contact: Ashley Pratkan at  
[apratka@smec.org](mailto:apratka@smec.org) or 346-335-8658



**TRANSFER OF ASSETS**

Pledging and setting up a recurring gift online  
helps you and the church budget

For all stewardship questions, contact Debbie Hutchison at  
[dhutchison@smec.org](mailto:dhutchison@smec.org) or 713-985-3803.

# OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

---

## SUNDAY PROGRAM STAFF

**Dr. David Henning**

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

**Mr. Keith Lathrom**

*Choral Director of the Adult Choir*  
klathrom@smec.org

**Ms. Hannah Cen**

*Associate Organist*  
hcen@smec.org

**Ms. Carole Nelson**

*Coordinator of Children's Music Ministries*  
cnelson@smec.org

**The Rev. Jane P. Ferguson**

*Associate for Student and Family Ministries*  
jferguson@smec.org

**Mrs. Ashley Monachelli**

*Director of Children's Ministry*  
amonachelli@smec.org

**Mrs. Kathy Johnson**

*Director of Membership*  
kjohnson@smec.org

**Mrs. Barbara Piana**

*Verger and Worship Coordinator*  
bpiana@smec.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. David Harvin, *Senior Council Representative 2023-2024*  
Mrs. Beth Reeves, *Senior Council Representative 2023-2024*  
Mrs. Hope Huber, *Altar Guild President 2023-2024*  
Mrs. Kathy Bennett, *ECW President 2023-2024*  
Mr. Perry Ruthven, *Men of St. Martin's President 2023-2024*  
Mr. Bob Porter, *Usher Representative 2022-2024*

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



**Mr. Roy W. Nichol**  
*Vestry Representative*  
*Morning*



**Mr. Will Hedges**  
*Vestry Representative*  
*Evening*

# OUR CLERGY

---

**Jesus, The Christ**  
*The Head of This Church*



**The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.**  
*Rector*  
lthough@smec.org



**The Rev. Sharron L. Cox**  
*Associate for Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Ministries*  
scox@smec.org



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



**The Rev. R. Wesley Arning**  
*Associate for Riverway and Discipleship Ministries*  
rwarning@smec.org



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



**The Rev. Naomi B. Sundara**  
*Chaplain to the Preschool*  
nsundara@smec.org



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



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



**The Rev. Alex D. Graham III**  
*Associate for Children and Family Ministries*  
agraham@smec.org



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



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



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



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

WE INVITE YOU TO  
KEEP THIS BOOKLET  
FOR REFERENCE.

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

SMEC.ORG

