FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: The Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024



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

IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, WELCOME.

Jesus' first words to His earliest disciples were very simple, "Come, follow Me..." (Matthew 4:19) It was a gentle invitation to take seriously the wonderful journey of faith found in Christ. For more than 2,000 years, people of all ages have responded to that invitation through a personal decision to follow Jesus Christ in a community of prayer, study and service. St. Martin's is just such a place.

St. Martin's is a member Church in the Diocese of Texas, The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and the greater worldwide Anglican Communion consisting of more than 77 million people. Our Parish Church considers it a tremendous honor to be a place where men, women, youth and children can grow in their personal relationship with our Lord, come to know and use their own spiritual gifts, and discover a personal ministry to be expressed both in the Church, the greater Houston area and beyond.

I want to personally invite you to participate in our worship services and as many of our activities and ministries as your own commitments and time will allow.

June J. Luna, Jr. +

The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr., Rector

Prayers Before Worship

O Lord, we thank You that You have called us as members of Your family into this beautiful house of God. Grant that here we may feel Your presence and the beauty of Your peace, and that, as we return to our homes and work, we may sense Your guiding hand and loving care and be used in the service of our neighbors, our nation and the world, and all You send our way, through Him Who came not to condemn the world but to save it, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

NOTICES

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

St. Martin's asks that anyone coming into a worship service not bring oversized or large backpacks. *indicates when latecomers may be seated so as not to disturb other worshipers

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

JANUARY 7

Adults

8+ with the Rev. Sharron Cox

Lectionary-based Bible Study 8:55-9:25 a.m. Chapel Reception Hall

Theology for Life with Dr. Dave Peterson

"Dave on the Life of David: Lessons of Faith from One of the Old Testament's Most Famous Characters" 10:15-11 a.m. Bagby Parish Hall

Family Life Class with the Rev. Alex Graham III

Breakfast Club 10:15-11 a.m. Activity Center, Game Room

Contemplative Prayer Hour with the Rev. Sharron Cox

10:15-11 a.m. Pastoral Care Center, Bride's Parlor

Seekers with the Rev. Nick Dyke Lectionary-based Bible Study 10:15-11 a.m.

Activity Center, Aerobics Room

For more information about Adult Christian Education, contact Amanda DeViney at 713-830-4110 or adeviney@smec.org.

Adult Confirmation with the Rev. John Sundara 10:15-11 a.m.

Chapel Reception Hall

For more information about Adult Confirmation, contact email Juli Browning at 713-985-3845 or jbrowning@smec.org.

7-I-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.

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.

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.

JANUARY 8-13

Adults

Saintly Stitchers

Monday, Jan. 8 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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, Jan. 9 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, Jan. 10 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, Jan. 10 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, Jan. 10 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.

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

Wednesday, Jan. 10 4:30-6 p.m. | Children's Life Center and via Zoom

Learn and grow in the practice of prayer for healing, with an opportunity to train as an OSL prayer minister. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

St. Martin's 20s & 30s Dinner

Wednesday, Jan. 10 7-9 p.m. | Off-Campus

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, Jan. 11 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, Jan. 13 | 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.

Men

Men of St. Martin's Thursday, Jan. 11 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.

Dads' Bible Study

Thursday, Jan. 11 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.

Women

Christian Life Study

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

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

7-I-7 Students

Life Groups Wednesday, Jan. 10 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.

HOLY EUCHARIST

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

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

128 "We Three Kings" *HYMN We 1 three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear ing 2 Born a King Beth - le - hem's gold Ī plain, on 3 Frank - in cense to of - fer have I: in cense 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter fume breathes per а 5Glo - rious now be hold him rise, King and а 1 gifts far. field and foun - tain, we tra - verse a 2 bring crown him _ gain, King for ev to а er, 3 De - i owns a ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing, 4 life of sigh - ing, gath - er ing gloom; sor rowing, 5 Sac God and al - le ri fice; heaven sings 1 moor and moun tain, fol - low ing yon der star. -2 ceas - ing nev all reign. \mathbf{er} o - ver us to 3 glad - ly rais ing, wor - ship him. God Most High. bleed - ing, dy sealed in the stone - cold 4 ing, tomb. 5lu ia: al le lu - ia the earth plies. re Refrain 0 of won - der, of star star night, star with roy -'n1 beau ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,



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

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **People:** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant says

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

HYMN AT THE GLORIA The Eighth Tune

(sung only at 9 a.m., and 11:15 a.m.)



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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Celebrant: Let us pray. (kneel)

The Celebrant says the Collect

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

Please be seated.

THE LESSONActs 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — altogether there were about twelve of them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

2 d. child the light. 1 Ι want walk of to as а 23 God. Ι want to see. the bright - ness \mathbf{of} I'm look - ing for. the com - ing of Christ. d s 0 1 0 Je Je I fol low sus. want to look I want at to sus. I with Je want to be sus. 0 ø o. 0 0 God the light set stars to give to the world. The Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and When we have with pa - tience the race, run. we ø. 0. ø. star of my life. Je sus. is the show the way Fa ther. me to shall know the joy_ \mathbf{of} Je sus. -0 ď ρ .

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



Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934); Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934); Copyright: Words, Music: Copyright © 1970, 0975, Celebration, P.O. Box 309, Aliquippa, PA 15001, USA. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense. net A-705539.

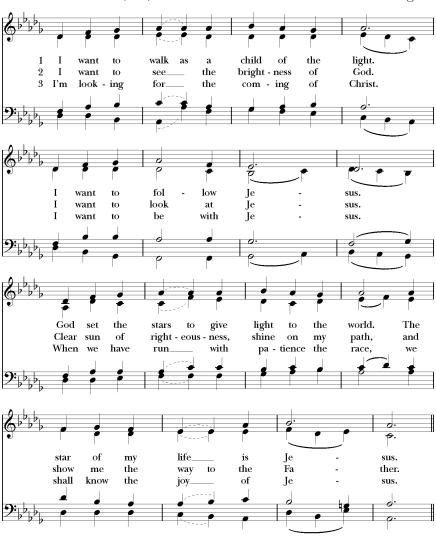
Deacon:The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.People:Glory be to thee, O Lord.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Deacon:	The Gospel of the Lord.
People:	Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining lectionary for the day is on page 27.



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



Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934); Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934); Copyright: Words, Music: Copyright © 1970, 0975, Celebration, P.O. Box 309, Aliquippa, PA 15001, USA. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense. net A-705539.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON "Into What, Then, Were YOU Baptized?" The Rev. Jane P. Ferguson

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (stand)

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

- People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
- Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
- People: I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
- People: I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
- People: I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- People: I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
- People: I will, with God's help.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (kneel)

Minister and People pray responsively Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve thee;

That thy Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai and Hector, our bishops; the Clergy of this Parish; in the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, for the Scottish Episcopal Church; for all bishops, priests and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of thy Word and Sacraments.

We pray for Joe, our President, Greg, our Governor, John, our Mayor, and the Congress and the Courts; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the World;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do thy will in all that we undertake; **That our works may find favor in thy sight.**

We pray for those for whom our prayers have been requested, especially ____; for those who are hospitalized, especially ____; and for those on our continuing prayer list; have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray for those who have died, especially ___; give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

May we also come to share in thy heavenly kingdom.

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

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

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles,"Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Minister says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

A moment of silence is kept

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.

Celebrant 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 31 for upcoming events.

THE OFFERTORY

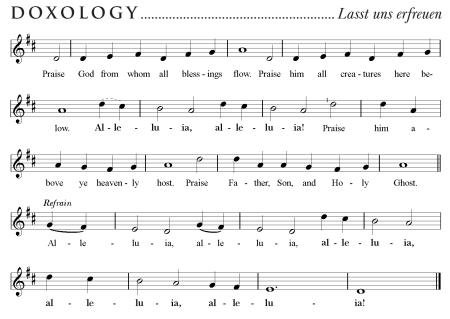
ANTHEM "There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth" Felix Mendelssohn

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

© 1979 by Addington Press. ARR. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-705539.

AT THE PRESENTATION (stand)

(8 a.m. only in place of sung Doxology)Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord;People: And of thine own have we given thee.



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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant:The Lord be with you.People:And with thy spirit.Celebrant:Lift up your hearts.People:We lift them up unto the Lord.Celebrant:Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.People:It is meet and right so to do.

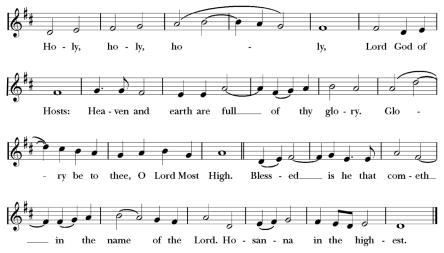
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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

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

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

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



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

The Celebrant continues (kneel)

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

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

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **People:** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM Celtic Alleluia



Text: Celtic Alleluia, Christopher Walker; Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker; © 1985, Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, public by OCP Publications. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under LicenSingOnline #U3219.

Then may be said PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant and People

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.

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

Text: Christina Rossetti. Music: Harold Darke.



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

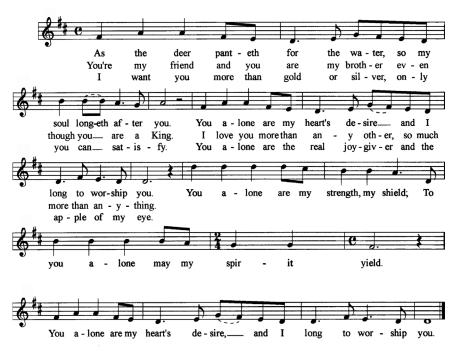
Words: Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871); Music: Woodworth, William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868).

HYMN"They'll Know We Are Christians"



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





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

After Communion, the Celebrant says 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.





Words: Mary Ann Thomson (1834–1923), alt.; Music: Tidings, James Walch (1837–1901).

THE DISMISSAL

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

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

On the occasion of their marriage

by Mary Catherine Scroggins and Robert James Corbett Dunbar, Jr. In thanksgiving for the Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr. on the 32nd anniversary of his ordination and installation as 4th Rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church In thanksgiving for all of our St. Martin's Acolytes In thanksgiving for the baptism of Robert Fitzgibbons "Fitz" Board by his parents, Emily and Alex Board In thanksgiving for the baptism of George William Sawyer Engerrand by his family In thanksgiving for the baptism of James Edward Patterson by Jennifer and Blake Patterson

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

THE OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

THE PSALM Psalm 29

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

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 **Bobbie Adams** Carolyn Alban Katie and Harvey Altmann Scotty Arnoldy Ally Babineaux Shelly Bain Kathy Beadnell Beth Beathard Bob Beeley Cory Blackman Kenny Brown Bella Carosi Cole Cattan Debbie Chernosky Doug Clarke Hallie Coolev Michael Craig Gail Davis Ross Dunn Kiersten Dyke Jim Easterling Stacey and John Elliott Charles Flores Julie G. Catherine Gonzales Nancy Gore Bette Haidusek Ann Halverson Kavla Hamaker Amy Heath Mollie Hill Marilyn Ingham Mary and Jim Jennings Mary Anne Kannard Candi Keebler Dick Kilday

Reggie Lang Rhea Latta Bruce Michael Lee Nancy Liles Nicole Holdford Lockney Ryan Logan Bella Martin Ronnie Martin Janet McDaniel Barbara McMahon Len Menefee Margaret Milner Ruth Moorhead Clarine Naskrent Stuart Nixon Ann Noel Deborah Oliver Andrew O'Malley Bob Paddock Jim Paddock Judy Peach Betty Polando **Joseph Powell** Heather Rathnau Dana Ravmant Ted Reed Marjorie Reeks Phyllis Reinhardt Monica Rivera John Davis Roady Joe Rodriguez Maggie Rodriguez Suzzy Schuwerk Helen and Jim Shaffer Caroline Shanahan Clif Shoemake Bob Spencer

Mary Watters Eric Zoerb Alexi Atticus Henry Laura Lynne Dave McStravick

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 vrivera@smec.org.

Paul Therrien

LaVonne Waldron

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

Lt. Col. Wesley J. Hunnell Capt. Blake J. Kidd Capt. Jack Mullen 1st Lt. Alex Mullen Lt. Paul Piana Lt. Col. Thomas C. Plant LCDR Bradley Hoffman

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 vrivera@smec.org.

.



ACOLYTE APPRECIATION DINNER

Sunday, Jan. 7 • 4 p.m. • Bagby Parish Hall

Acolytes who serve in Family Table and The Church – along with their families – are invited to a dinner that will recognize their contributions which enhance our worship services.

Planning to attend? Sign up at bit.ly/acolytedinner.



FEAST OF LIGHTS SERVICE Sunday, Jan. 7 • 6 p.m. • The Church

This service will be livestreamed on St. Martin's Facebook and YouTube channels.

Parishioners and friends are invited to this beautiful candlelight Epiphany service that also celebrates St. Martin's Acolytes' and their devotion to supporting worship. The highlight will be a sermon given by a senior Acolyte.

For more information about the dinner or service, contact the Rev. Jane P. Ferguson at jferguson@smec.org or 713-621-3040.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES



Sole Hope Shoe-Cutting Party

Sunday, Jan. 7 • 10:15-11 a.m. • Activity Center Gym

Drü Collie, Co-founder of Sole Hope, will speak at Family Table and Riverway

Make a global impact by cutting shoe patterns from old denim for Ugandan children to protect against jiggers. Meet Drü Collie from Sole Hope while you work. No special skills are required to participate.

Contact Tracee Tindol at tmartin@smec.org or 713-985-3811 for more information.



TOUR A GOTHIC-STYLE CHURCH WITHOUT LEAVING HOUSTON!

SUNDAY, JAN. 7 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.



ACTIVITY CENTER NEW CLASS! Walk-it-Off

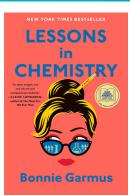
Starting Jan. 8, Mondays 10:30–11:15 a.m. | Aerobics Room

Join Angela for a fun, low-impact cardio class with easy-to-follow steps. Get the equivalent of a 1-mile walk in 30 minutes of work, followed by 15 minutes of stretching. Open to all levels.

MOST CLASSES ARE FREE! For more information, visit bit.ly/smecactivitycenter.

Contact | Sarah-Hampton Cambas scambas@smec.org • 713-985-3835





DAY GROUP

1–2:30 p.m. | Wednesday, Jan. 10 Children's Life Center, Room 132 and Via Zoom | bit.ly/faithinlitdayzoom

While operating within the framework of Christian theology, Faith in Literature seeks to ascertain in our reading how all good literature, if even by its omission, deals with and reflects themes of faith.

> This month, we discuss "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus.

For more information, contact Amanda DeViney at 713-830-4110 or adeviney@smec.org.





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

Wednesdays

Jan. 10 – Feb. 28 • 10:30 a.m. – noon or 1–2:30 p.m. Student Life Center, Second Floor Mezzanine Lounge

Each class is limited to the first 20 who register.

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

"A Change of Heart" is available for purchase in St. Martin's Gift Shoppe. Session one should be completed for the first meeting.



Join us in January as we begin a new series, "Just for Epiphany."

The small group discussions will focus on the Letter of James. Participating in the four-week Bible study provides a meaningful opportunity to meet fellow Parishioners and builds a sense of community.

Registration runs through Jan. 12 at bit.ly/justforsmallgroups. Just For groups begin the week of Jan. 14

For questions, contact the Rev. Wesley Arning or Kathy Johnson, Director of Membership, at smallgroups@smec.org.

MARATHON SUNDAY January 14

To view the course map and street closure times, visit **bit.ly/marathonsunday**

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

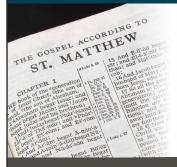
- Eastbound Woodway Drive traffic (west of Chimney Rock) will be forced to turn south on Chimney Rock.
- Eastbound traffic on Memorial Drive (west of Chimney Rock) will be forced to go north on Chimney Rock.

For questions, contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040.



Bible Study Resumes Thursday Mornings! 7 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall

Spring schedule available at **bit.ly/mosm**



The first book of the New Testament, the Gospel of Matthew, is an incredible biography of Jesus. The Men of St. Martin's have been delving into what new insight Matthew offers about Jesus' person, identity and mission and what it looks like for us to trust, obey and follow Him.

Join us! Breakfast is available for purchase in the Café St. Martin's.

Contact | Juli Browning • jbrowning@smec.org • 713-985-3845.

Student Mission Trip · June 15-22

TENNESSEE



Registration: bit.ly/2024nashvillemissiontrip Deadline to register: March 31 Cost: \$800

Open to students who are currently in 6th–12th grade.

An Opportunity To See Nashville With The Lord's Heart And Eyes This summer, the students and their leaders will head to Nashville for a week-long mission dedicated to help local elderly, children and homeless people. "Week of Hope" participants will serve the nonprofit Group Missions team through Jesus-centered programs that combine work, fun and worship.

hville

Contact | Florence Ritchie • fritchie@smec.org • 713-985-3843

ST. MARTIN'S PRESENTS A VERY SPECIAL LENTEN RETREAT

MONDAY-THURSDAY

March 18-21 • 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY March 22 • 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. *The Scout Center*

Only four spots remain!

Theresa Harrison returns to St. Martin's to guide retreatants in creativity with the icon of the Annunciation, the moment of the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary.

For more information, contact Tracee Tindol at tmartin@smec.org or 713-985-3811.



Registration fee: \$495 Includes all supplies and lunch at Café St. Martin's.

Register now at bit.ly/iconretreat2024



ALL-PARISH WINDOW



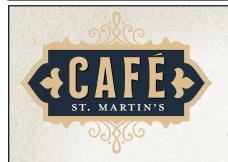
BUILDING FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME

In August 2021, St. Martin's celebrated the culmination of the "Building for the Ages" campaign, with a weekend filled with dedications, blessings and consecration of new buildings and garden spaces. You can contribute to the legacy of St. Martin's by donating to the All-Parish Window in the Parish Life Center.

Give online at **bit.ly/givetosmec** Select » All Parish Window

Contact | Ashley Pratka, Director of Development apratka@smec.org • 346-335-8658.





HOURS Monday – Thursday 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Bagby Parish Hall

View our menu at bit.ly/cafestmartins

Come by and discover delicious specialties prepared daily by our café team.

Enjoy our hot meal entrées, sandwiches, salad bar, baked potato bar, desserts and more!

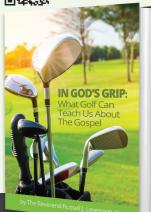
CONTACT

Chrissy Kana, Café Manager 713-985-3806 • ckana@smec.org

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 American (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 or 713-985-3834.

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

General Questions Contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040.

Prayer Requests

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

After Hours Emergencies Call 713-621-3040 and press 2 to reach the Priest on Call.

Death Notifications and Funerals

Contact Cyndy Ensign at 713-985-3808 or censign@smec.org.



AJ Weisberger

HHCI[®] Hope and Healing Center & Institute

THE AJ WEISBERGER EDUCATION SERIES ON ADDICTION

What to Know About Fentanyl JANUARY 10

Wednesday at Noon CT Available Online Only

Register at hhci.org/events

For more information, contact Emilee Clyburn at eclyburn@hhci.org or 346-335-8622



Presented by Alicia Kowalchuk, DO



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. Gib Surles Vestry Representative

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ

The Head of This Church



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



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



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



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



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



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





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



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



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



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



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

