FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 4, 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.

Bunne 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

FEBRUARY 4

Adults

8+ with the Rev. Lisa Neilson

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

Clergy Roundtable

"Observing a Holy Lent" 10:15-11 a.m. Bagby Parish Hall

Family Life Class

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

Seekers

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.

FEBRUARY 5-10

Adults

Saintly Stitchers

Monday, Feb. 5 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, Feb. 6 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, Feb. 7 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, Feb. 7 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, Feb. 7 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, Feb. 7 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, Feb. 8 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, Feb. 10 | 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, Feb. 8 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, Feb. 8 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, Feb. 6 – Evening Group | 6:30-8 p.m. | Children's Life Center and via Zoom Thursday, Feb. 8 – 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.

The Moms' Group

Wednesday, Feb. 7 9:15-10:30 a.m. | Student Life Center Living Room

Join mothers of infants through grade 12 students for a book study and fellowship. For more information, contact Ashley Monacelli at 713-985-3816 or amonachelli@smec.org.

7-I-7 Students

Life Groups Wednesday, Feb. 7 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. John Sundara at 713-985-3842 or jsundara@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 "Concerto in B-flat" George F. Handel

PROCESSION OF SCOUTS (9 a.m.) (stand)

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

*HYMN 423"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"





Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824–1908), alt.; Music: St. Denio, Welsh hymn, from Caniadau y Cyssegr, 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822–1877); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906, alt.

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.**

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



Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847); Music: Lauda anima, John Goss (1800-1880).

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

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

Please be seated.

THE LESSON Isaiah 40:28-31

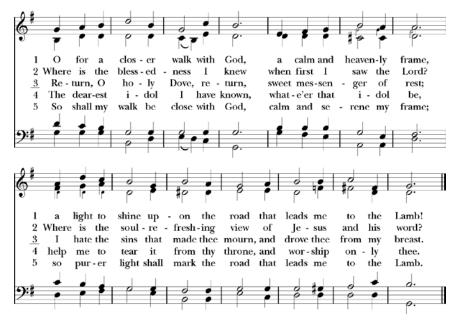
Read at 9 a.m. by Tad Hruska, Life Scout, Memorial High School

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

HYMN 683 (vs. 1-3)..... "O for a Closer Walk with God"



Words: William Cowper (1731-1800), alt.; Music: Beatitudo, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

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

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining readings for the day are on pages 26-27.

HYMN 683 (vs. 4-5)..... "O for a Closer Walk with God"



Words: William Cowper (1731-1800), alt.; Music: Beatitudo, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

Please be seated.

THE SERMON "Higher than Eagles" *The Rev. John D. Sundara*

THE NICENE CREED (stand)

Celebrant and People I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father, and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (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 Anglican Church of South America; 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

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

Minister says Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

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.

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 32 for upcoming events.

SCOUTING EXPERIENCE (9 a.m.) Levi Lopez, Life Scout, Elsik High school

Please see page 31 for the full roster of Scouts.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS (11:15 a.m.)

Celebrant

Dear Friends in Christ, in companionship with each other as we journey in faith, we welcome new members into this community of St. Martin's Episcopal Church. We welcome them to join us as we seek to love the Lord our God with heart and soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We welcome and cherish their unique gifts and experiences as together we follow the Holy Spirit in transforming this community for the work and mission of Jesus Christ.

Presenter

I present these Christians to be welcomed as members of St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

Rector:	Do you desire to continue your journey into Christ as a member of St. Martin's Episcopal Church?	
New Members: We do.		
Rector:	Will you commit yourself to seek and serve Christ in	
	this community of faith and pledge to work, pray, and	
	give to build up our common life?	
New Members: We will, with God's help.		
Rector:	Will you who witness these promises, do all in your	
	power to support these persons in their life in Christ?	
People:	We will.	

Rector: Let us pray.

Loving God, we give thanks that you have brought these new members to join us in ministry. Knit us together, one to another, so that in unity we may know you and serve you in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

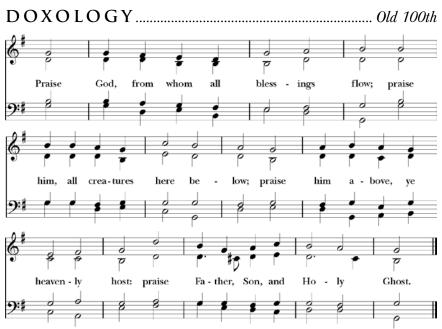
ANTHEM		"Christ the Appletree"
	Stanford Scriven	

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green; the trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the appletree. This beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know, but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see, in Jesus Christ the appletree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought; I missed of all, but now I see this found in Christ the appletree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the appletree. I'm weary'd with my former toil, here I will sit and rest a while; under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the appletree.

Text: Joshua Smith. Music: setting by Stanford Scriven. © 2009 by Stanford E. Scriven. Published and distributed by earthsongs.

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

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.

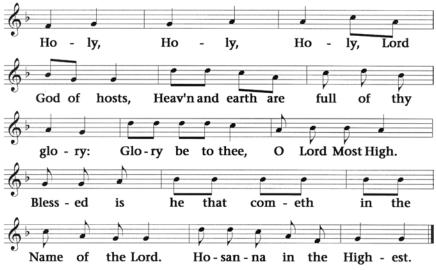
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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.)



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

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.

ANTHEM "The Lord is My Light" Peter Hallock

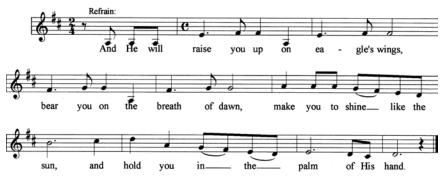
The Lord is my light, the refuge of my life and my salvation: of who then shall I be afraid? If I take the wings of the morning, or go up into heaven, your right hand will hold me. In the shadow of your wings I will rejoice and bless your holy Name; and I will sing of your Glory, O Lord my strength, as long as I live.

Text from Psalm 27, v. 1 Psalm 139, v. 8, Psalm 63 v. 4, 7. © 1984 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

HYMN the that 1 A maz ing grace! how sweet sound, 2 Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and 3 The Lord has ised good to his prom me, and 4 Through man y dan gers, toils, snares, I * 5 When we've been there ten thou sand vears. bright like saved wretch me! once lost but 1 was а 2 did grace my fears re lieved; how pre cious that 3 word mv hope se cures; he will mv shield and have al dy 'tis that brought 4 rea come; grace me 5 shin ing as the sun, we've no less days to 1 0 blind now found, was but now see. am I 2 the hour I first lieved! grace ap pear be 3 por tion be as long as life en dures. thus far. will lead home. safe and grace me 4 we'd 5 sing God's praise than when first be gun.

Words: John Newton (1725–1807), alt.; st. 5, from A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus; Music: New Britain, from Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851–1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919).

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in His shadow for life, Say to the Lord: "my refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!"



- 2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear, Under his wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield. **Refrain**
- 3. You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. **Refrain**
- 4. For to His angels He's given a command to guard you in all of your ways. Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. **Refrain**

Text: Michael Joncas (based on Psalm 91); Music: Michael Joncas; Text and Music: Copyright 1979 New Dawn Music. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under LicenSingOnline #602907.



Text and Music: Terry Coelho; © 1972, Maranatha! Music (ADMIN. by The Copyright Co.). 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.

HYMN 435 "At the Name of Jesus" 0 O. At the Name of Ie sus ev erv knee shall bow, 2 Hum - bled for a sea son, re - ceive a Name to 3 bore it up tri um - phant, with its hu man light, 4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong death, as 0 1 ery tongue con fess him King of glo гy now; ev -2 from the lips of sin ners, un to whom he came, <u>3</u> through all ranks of crea tures, to the cen - tral height, name with and with 4 awe and der bat - ed breath; won O. 90 d. 1 'tis the Fa ther's plea sure we should call him Lord 2 faith - ful lv he bore it spot - less to the last, -Fa ther's 3 to the throne of God head, to the breast; 4 he God the he Christ the is Sa vior. is Lord, 0 0 who from the be gin - ning was the might y Word. 2 brought vic to - rious, it back when from death he passed; 3 filled it with the glo - ry of that fect rest. per wor - shiped, trust - ed, 4 ev \mathbf{er} to be and a dored.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817–1877), alt.; Music: King's Weston, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958); Copyright: Music: By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Brigitte Elizabeth Benak by Caroline and Andrew Benak In thanksgiving for all our Scouts and those who work with them In memory of Ricardo "Ricky" Sepulveda by David, Linda and Alejandro Morgan



BAPTISMS

Jan. 27 Caroline Rose Hibbert Emma Grace Hibbert Annabelle Louise Schramm



W E D D I N G S

Jan. 27 Alexandra Nicole Blakley and William Harrison Hepner



S Y M P A T H Y

Jan. 8	John Edgar Joiner
Jan. 20	Marilyn Sadler Kurk
	Jan Armstrong Neuenschwander
Jan. 26	Robert Alfred Beeley
Jan. 27	Brian E. O'Brien

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

READINGS FOR THE DAY

ΤI	H E P S A L M Psalm 147:1-12, 21c
1	Hallelujah!
	How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
	how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
2	The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *
	he gathers the exiles of Israel.
3	He heals the brokenhearted *
	and binds up their wounds.
4	He counts the number of the stars *
	and calls them all by their names.
5	Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
	there is no limit to his wisdom.
6	The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
	but casts the wicked to the ground.
7	Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
	make music to our God upon the harp.
8	He covers the heavens with clouds *
	and prepares rain for the earth;
9	He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
	and green plants to serve mankind.
10	He provides food for flocks and herds *
	and for the young ravens when they cry.
11	He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
	he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
12	But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
	in those who await his gracious favor.
21	Hallelujah!

READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE EPISTLE1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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 Bobbie Adams Carolyn Alban Katie and Harvey Altmann Scotty Arnoldy Edith Avery Ally Babineaux Shelly Bain Kathy Beadnell Beth Beathard Cory Blackman Kenny Brown Bella Carosi Cole Cattan Debbie Chernosky Doug Clarke Hallie Cooley Michael Craig Sam Cruse Gail Davis Bobby de Sosa Linda de Sosa Ross Dunn Kiersten Dyke Jim Easterling Stacey and John Elliott Charles Flores Will Fogle Julie G. Catherine Gonzales Nancy Gore Bette Haidusek Ann Halverson Kayla Hamaker Amy Heath Mollie Hill Marguerite Hillgers Marilyn Ingham Christine Jean

Mary and Jim Jennings John Justice Sandra "Sandy" Justice Mary Anne Kannard Candi Keebler Dick Kilday Marjorie Krajian Reggie Lang Rhea Latta Bruce Michael Lee Nancy Liles Nicole Holdford Lockney Rvan Logan Bella Martin Ronnie Martin Janet McDaniel Barbara McMahon Dave McStravick Frances Melicks Len Menefee Margaret Milner Ruth Moorhead Stuart Nixon Ann Noel Deborah Oliver Andrew O'Malley **Bob Paddock** Jim Paddock Judy Peach Betty Polando Joseph Powell Ophelia Pujol Barbara Quackenbush Heather Rathnau Dana Raymant Ted Reed Marjorie Reeks Phyllis Reinhardt Monica Rivera

John Davis Roady Joe Rodriguez Maggie Rodriguez Consuelo Saldana Suzzy Schuwerk Helen and Jim Shaffer Caroline Shanahan Clif Shoemake Bob Spencer Paul Therrien LaVonne Waldron Mary Watters Stephen Wedemeyer Stacy Wood Ann Winters Eric Zoerb Alexi Atticus Henry Julie Laura Lynne

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

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

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.

SERMON NOTES

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TROOP 354 SCOUTS

Berman, Matthew A. Campbell, Jacob R. "Jake" Dale, John D. Dooley, Henry A. Erwin, Graham M. Erwin, Luke Evans, Henry F. Faulk, Robert L. "Bobby" Guilanshah, Thomas K. Hanna, William M. Harrington, Thomas S. Hibbard, Nathan D. Hruska, Tad O. Hruska, Zak Jones, J.D. "Donnie" IV Katz, Samuel "Sam" Lane, George H. Lanier, Charlie Lingle, Harrison C. "Harris" Lloyd, Rhys E. Lopez, Levi E.

Magid, Alex D. McGee, William W. "Wade" Miers, Blake Moore, Jonah S. Nolan, Joseph R. Phillips, Charles L. "Logan" Pielop, Benjamin S. "Ben" Pielop, James A. Pielop, Robert A. "Gus" Pinkston, Luke A. Price, Jackson C. Pryor, Jackson Raynes, William A. Roth, Merrick Shagory, Andrew O. "Drew" Stratton, John M. "Jack" Suell, William S. Taghlabi, Karim R. Tannery, Morgan "Morgs" Weber, Scott J. "Jackson" Jr.







1 10



TOUR A GOTHIC-STYLE CHURCH WITHOUT LEAVING HOUSTON!

SUNDAY, FEB. 4 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

Walk-it-Off

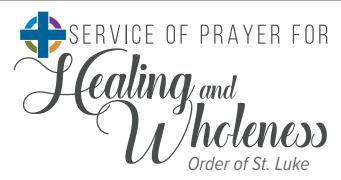
Mondays 10:30–11:15 a.m. | Aerobics Room

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 | Victoria Wilson activitycenter@smec.org • 713-985-3835



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, Feb. 7 | 5 p.m. Parish Life Center or via Zoom bit.ly/oslservice

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



SUNDAY, FEB. 11

10–11 a.m. Children's Life Center and Activity Center

Join us for the 14th annual Serve Day for St. Martin's Parishioners. Our faith in Christ is expressed by helping others in our community. Activities are planned on Campus to serve the many agencies we support.

CONTACT

Tracee Tindol • tmartin@smec.org • 713-985-3811

FAMILY DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT

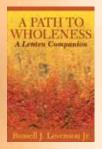
TUESDAY, FEB. 13 5–7:30 P.M. • BAGBY PARISH HALL

All Parishioners are invited to attend this family gathering, which will include a traditional pancake dinner, red beans and rice, live entertainment, children's activities and prizes.

To purchase tickets, visit bit.ly/shrovetuesdaydinner

Contact: Justin Jacobson Avery • events@smec.org • 713-985-3838

SEASONAL BOOK BY THE REV. DR. RUSSELL J. LEVENSON JR. A portion of proceeds goes to support Outreach Ministries at St. Martin's



A Path to Wholeness A Lenten Companion

For those seeking inspiration and devotion for Lent and beyond, A Path to Wholeness is an invitation to Lenten observance through Biblical passages and reflections.

"Russ Levenson's Lenten devotions breathe with the air of a seasoned pastor and preacher. With his characteristic wit and Southern charm — and many, many good stories — Levenson

brings the gospel to life. Above all, he shows what it looks like to devote one's life to the only one who deserves our allegiance, Christ Jesus our Savior. One could look for no better path to wholeness."

-The Rev. Dr. Christopher A. Beeley, Rector of The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Dallas

Church Publishing Incorporated products are available by calling 800-242-1918, visiting churchpublishing.org, through any Episcopal bookstore, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Cokesbury, Christian Book Distributors, books-A-million and Kindle or St. Martin's Gift Shoppe.

LENT AT ST. MARTIN'S

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

LENT ADULT SUNDAY School classes

WEDNESDAY EVENING Adult Lent Series

THURSDAY AFTERNOON Adult Lenten Series

LENTEN QUIET DAY



Wednesday, Feb. 14 Traditional Worship Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes 7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. • The Church

Riverway Contemporary Service Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes 6:30 p.m. • Parish Life Center

Ash Wednesday Student Supper and Worship For students in grades 6–12 5:30–8 pm. • Student Life Center and Parish Life Center

Sundays, before and after the morning services Wednesdays, Feb. 21–March 20 4:30–5:30 p.m. • The Church

"A Short History of Christian Thought" Led by the Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson, Jr. Sundays, Feb. 18–March 17 10:15–11 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall

"Lord, Teach Us to Pray..." Led by the Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr. Wednesdays, Feb. 21–March 20 5 p.m., Dinner • Bagby Parish Hall

5:30 p.m., Holy Eucharist • The Church 6:30 p.m., Program Begins • Bagby Parish Hall

"Then Sings My Soul" Led by St. Martin's Clergy Thursdays, Feb. 22–March 21 4–5 p.m. • Chapel Reception Hall

"Putting on Christ: The Baptismal Nature of Christ" Sponsored by St. Martin's Chapter of OSL Saturday, Feb. 24 9 a.m.–noon. • Parish Life Center

For more details about our Lenten offerings, visit **bit.ly/smeclent**



FEATURING KREIS BEALL



TUESDAY, MARCH 5 11 a.m.–1 p.m. • Parish Life Center

Luncheon Registration Opens on Feb. 6! Register: bit.ly/ecwspringprogram

Deadline to register: Tuesday, Feb. 27

Kreis Beall is the co-founder of Blackberry Farm, an awardwinning resort in East Tennessee and a premier event destination in the country. For decades, Beall worked in the travel and entertainment world and frequently appeared on the pages of popular home and design magazines.

Questions? Contact Valerie Rivera at vrivera@smec.org or 713-985-3817.

diving into friendship with god

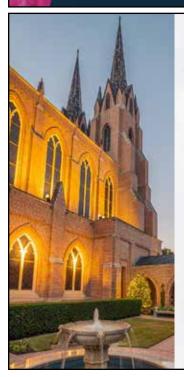
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

JUNE 10-13 • 9:30 a.m. - noon Registration: bit.ly/SMEC_VBS

(Case sensitive)

It's not too early to start thinking about a fun-filled week during Vacation Bible School. This year, children will take a deep-sea adventure and experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. During Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is about.

Contact: Rocio Velazquez • rvelazquez@smec.org • 713-985-3807



YOUR PLEDGE Matters

As we move through the Stewardship Season at St. Martin's, we prayerfully urge you to consider contributing to our annual campaign. This cannot happen without the support of all!

If you have never pledged to St. Martin's, I invite you to begin! You will feel joy and pride to uplift your Church and the many community non-profits it supports. Your generosity in supporting the Church and our financial needs is greatly appreciated.



Contact

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

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.

A Perfect Gift for Valentine's Day! "IN GOD'S GRIP: What Golf Can Teach Us About The Gospel"

"If you enjoy golf, as I do, you think often about how to improve your game. Russ Levenson's well-written, well researched new book, In God's Grip, is a winsome parable that uses golf to gently confront us with profound, life-changing tips to improve something far more important, our relationship with Christ."

— Max McLean, Founder & Artistic Director, Fellowship for Performing Arts

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 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 one spot remains!

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



Student Mission Trip · June 15-22

ENNESSEE



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.

shville

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



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 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. Dan Meyer, Senior Warden Mr. Ryan LaRue, Junior Warden Mrs. Nancy Bynon, Missions Chair Ms. Sherrie Perkins, Treasurer Mr. Logan Walters, Clerk Mr. Tommy Ford, Past Senior Warden Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., Parish Stewardship Chair Mr. Andy Harvin, Chancellor*

Vestry Members

Mr. Scott Anderson Mrs. Summer Craig Mrs. Elizabeth Dukes Mr. Will Hedges The Hon. Edith Jones Mr. David Leonard Mrs. Susan McConn Mr. Roy Nichol Mrs. Courtney Schilling 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.



Mrs. Courtney Schilling Vestry Representative Evening



Mrs. Nancy Bynon Vestry Representative Evening

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. 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. 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

