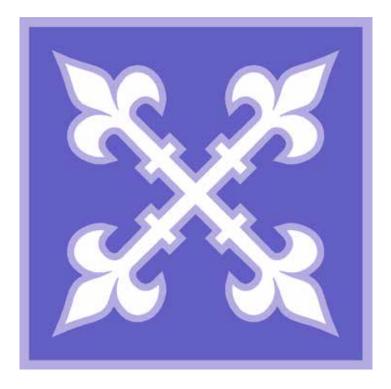
# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

# March 10, 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

# MARCH 10

#### Adults

8+ with the Rev. Marty Bastian

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

Theology for Life with the Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson, Jr.

"A Short History of Christian Thought" 10:15-11 a.m. Bagby Parish Hall

Seekers with the Rev. Marty Bastian

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.

# MARCH 11-16

#### Adults

#### Saintly Stitchers

Monday, March 11 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, March 12 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, March 13 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, March 13 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, March 13 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, March 13 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.

#### Parish Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 14 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, March 16 | 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.

# 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.



Words: Johann Heermann (1585–1647); tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844–1930), alt.; Music: Herzliebster Jesu, Johann Cruger (1598–1662), alt.

Celebrant:Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.People:His mercy endureth for ever.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 22:37-40

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (kneel)

*The Celebrant says* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

A moment of silence is observed.

#### Minister and People

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### The Celebrant stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  (8 a.m. only in place of sung Trisagion)Celebrant: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,People: Have mercy upon us.

## TRISAGION



Title: The Holy Eucharist, Holy God: Trisagion; Music: Ver. Hymnal 1982, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924).

# THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

#### The Celebrant says the Collect

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

Please be seated.

# THE EPISTLE ......Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.



Words: Sts. 1–3, Philip Doddridge (1702–1751), alt.; st. 4, Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt.; Music: Rockingham, melody from Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, ca. 1780; adapt. Edward Miller (1731–1807); harm. Samuel Webbe (1740–1816).

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

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The remaining lectionary for the day is on page 24.



\*HYMN 321 (vs. 3-4)...... "My God, Thy Table Now is Spread"

Words: Sts. 1–3, Philip Doddridge (1702–1751), alt.; st. 4, Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt.; Music: Rockingham, melody from Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, ca. 1780; adapt. Edward Miller (1731–1807); harm. Samuel Webbe (1740–1816).

Please be seated.

THE SERMON ...... "Wanted: Dead or Alive" The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr. morning services

evening service

### 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

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Lord, have mercy.

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Andy, Jeff, Kai and Hector, our bishops; in the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, for the Episcopal Church; and for all clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Lord, have mercy.

For Joe, our President, Greg, our Governor, and John, our Mayor; for the Congress and the Courts; for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially those in hospitals \_\_\_\_, and those who have requested our prayers \_\_\_\_, and those on our continuing prayer list, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, for all who remember and care for them; for first responders, and for all who serve in our armed forces and their families, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, especially \_\_\_\_, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

## Lord, have mercy.

For all the blessings of this life; and in the communion of St. Martin and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

## To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

## Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son 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 28 for upcoming events.

# THE OFFERTORY

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that who-so believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Text: John 3:16. © 1999 Oxford University Press. ARR.

## 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.

#### 





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

# 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.

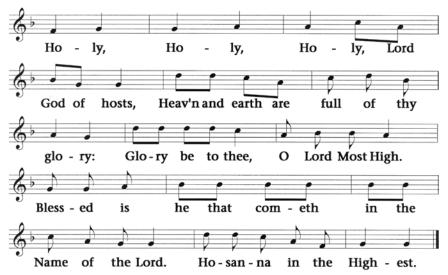
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

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

# SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Celebrant and People (said at 8 a.m.; sung at 9 a.m., 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, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

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

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

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

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

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

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.** 

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

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### 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 Fraction Anthem)

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

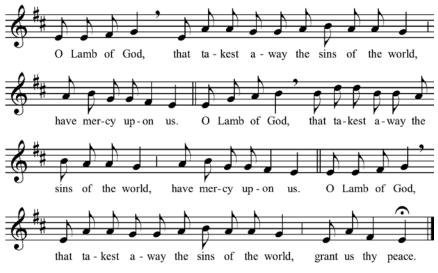
People: Have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

People: Have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: **People:** Grant us thy peace.

### FRACTION ANTHEM



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

# PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

#### Celebrant and People

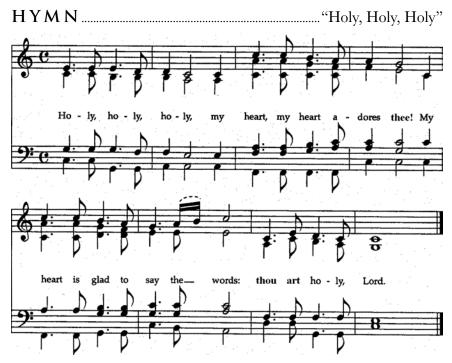
We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious 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.

#### 

The towering tree spreads his greening canopy, A veil between the soil and sky, Not in selfish vanity, But the gentle thrush to shade and shelter. So it is with love. For when we love, Simply love, Even as we are loved, Our weary world can be transformed. The busy thrush builds her nest below, A fortnight's work to weave and set, Not for herself alone, But her tender brood to shield and cherish. And so it is with love. For when we love, Simply love, Even as we are loved, Our weary world can be transformed. Into the Kingdom of God!

Text: Charles Anthony Silvestri © 2019 Elaine Hagenberg Music. All rights reserved.

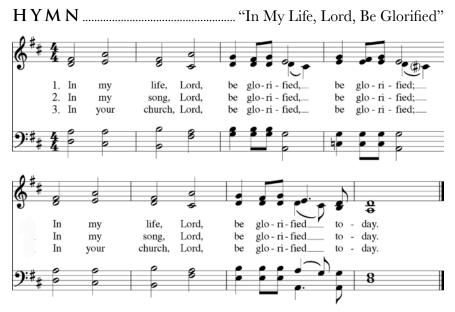


Music: Geoff Weaver. Arr. © 1993 Geoff Weaver/Jubilate Hymns. (Admin. by Hope Publishing Co.) All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-705539.

HYMN ....."Just a Closer Walk with Thee"



Words: Anonymous; Music: American Folk Song.



Music and text: Bob Kilpatrick (b. 1952); Copyright: © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, P. O. Box 2383, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. 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.** 

## LENTEN BLESSING





Words: George William Kitchin (1827–1912) and Michael Robert Newbolt (1874–1956); Music: Crucifer, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875–1947); Copyright: Words, Music: By permission of Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd.

# THE DISMISSAL

Alleluias are omitted during the season of Lent.Minister: Let us bless the Lord.People: Thanks be to God.

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

# RECOGNITIONS



#### BIRTHS

Jan. 18

Grace Elizabeth Rains Daughter of Tricia Clarke Rains and Rodger Rains II

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

# OTHER READINGS FOR THE DAY

# THE OLD TESTAMENT ......Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

## **THE PSALM** ......Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \* and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim \* that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; \* from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \* they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food \* and drew near to death's door.
- 19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, \* and he delivered them from their distress.
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them \* and saved them from the grave.
- 21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy \* and the wonders he does for his children.
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \* and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

# SERMON NOTES



"Who am I? I am a Jekyll and Hyde, a mixed-up kid, having both dignity, because I still have a fallen and rebellious nature. I am both noble and ignoble, beautiful and ugly, good and bad, upright and twisted ... My true self is what I am by creation, which Christ came to redeem ... My false self is what I am by the fall, which Christ came to destroy."

From "The Cross of Christ," p. 285. The Reverend Dr. John R.W. Stott

Books by the Reverend Dr. John R.W. Stott

"Basic Christianity" "The Cross of Christ" "The Incomparable Christ" "The Radical Disciple" "Romans" "Ephesians" "The Birds: Our Teachers"

# 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 Almeria Cottingham Michael Craig Sam Cruse James Cunningham Gail Davis Bobby de Sosa Linda de Sosa Ross Dunn Kiersten Dyke Becca Earhart Jim Easterling Stacey and John Elliott Mary Finucane Charles Flores Will Fogle Susan Folk Iulie G. Catherine Gonzales Nancy Gore Bette Haidusek Ann Halverson Kavla Hamaker

Amy Heath Mollie Hill Marguerite Hillgers **Russell Hughes** Marilyn Ingham Thelma Isenhart Christine Iean 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 Holford Lockney Amanda Lodge 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'Mallev **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 Helen and Jim Shaffer Caroline Shanahan Clif Shoemake Bob Spencer Trish St. Jean Martin Paul Therrien Mary Watters Stephen Wedemeyer Ann Winters Stacy Wood Eric Zoerb Alexi Atticus Henry Iulie Laura Lynne Stuart

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 PFC. Parris F. Owen 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.

Please circle the name of any loved one that you would like to remain on our Continuing Prayer list, tear out this sheet of your bulletin and place it in the Prayer List box in the Narthex. You may also email Valerie Rivera at vrivera@smec.org with this information. Your assistance in maintaining our prayer list is most appreciated.

# THE RECTOR SEARCH Committee Wants Your Help!



St. Martin's Search Committee is committed to helping find the 5th Rector and invites you to help with the process! We are working to identify the Church's needs and aspirations, and to create a Parish profile.

The Search Committee invites your continuing prayers and asks for your input in suggesting specific candidates and other suggestions.

Particularly, the Committee wants Parishioners' feedback regarding the qualifications and characteristics that should be prioritized as they review potential candidates. Please provide candidate names and their current location to the Search Committee for consideration. All feedback will be shared with the Committee members and remain confidential. We are very thankful for your support.

To provide feedback, please email the Rector Search Committee at **searchcommittee@stmartinsepiscopal.org**.

# PRAYER FOR THE SEARCH OF ST. MARTIN'S 5TH RECTOR



#### Heavenly Father,

As a community of believers, we come together in prayer seeking Your guidance as St. Martin's Episcopal Church begins the search for our 5th rector. May we be blessed with Your Holy Spirit's wisdom and discernment. We especially ask that You guide the hearts and minds of the Search Committee who will be deeply involved in this choice. Lord Jesus, shepherd Your flock with tender care and love. Give us patience as we wait, trusting in Your gracious provision. Guide us, Oh Lord, as we navigate this season of change, knowing that You are with us every step of the way. Our fervent prayer is that Your will be done.

#### With humble expectations,

Amen.

Isaiah 30: 21, "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it."



NEW BOOK BY THE REV. DR. RUSSELL J. LEVENSON, JR.

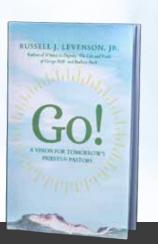
# Go! A VISION FOR TOMORROW'S PRIESTS & PASTORS

When it comes to priests and pastors, today's crisis of vocation isn't just about the numbers. It runs into issues of identity and purpose. Originally delivered at the 177th Commencement Address at Nashotah House Theological Seminary, "Go!" seeks to reignite the passion of priests and pastors everywhere.

Dr. Levenson reminds us that pastoral ministry can always be renewed so long as we are willing to obey the fundamental command of Jesus Christ: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations."

- 66 These are tough days for the Church, and we need a united Christ-centered ministry for the service of Christ. Russ crafts an attractive vision of ministry.
  - George Carey, 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury

**Contact:** Barbara Shoemaker *Gift Shoppe Supervisor* bshoemaker@smec.org • 713-985-3834



Published by VTS Press and available at St. Martin's Gift Shoppe or wherever fine books are sold.

# OUTREACH MINISTRIES



# Church in the Field

Meet in St. Martin's parking lot

Church in the Field ministers to the homeless in downtown Houston by serving a meal, serving as prayer partners and providing praise music for the worship service once a month. Volunteers, age 18 and older, carpool to the service. Sign up to provide desserts at bit.ly/citfdesserts.

To sign up, contact Tracee Tindol at outreach@stmartinsepiscopal.org or 713-985-3811.





Wednesdays Noon–12:45 p.m. | Aerobics Room

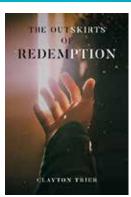
Join Natalie for Pilates on a mat! This class helps to strengthen and lengthen your muscles, improve your posture, reduce pain in your body and allows you to benefit from a mind/body connection. All exercises are performed on the floor. **Open to ALL levels.** 

### MOST CLASSES ARE FREE!

For more information, visit bit.ly/smecactivitycenter.

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





# DAY GROUP

1–2:30 p.m. | Wednesday, March 13 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 "The Outskirts of Redemption" by Clayton Trier.

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



#### Sundays, before and after the morning services.

Parishioners and guests are invited to make their pilgrimage along the Via Dolorosa, or "Way of Sorrows," during Lent and Holy Week 2024.

A free guide is available in the Narthex of the Church or download a digital copy at bit.ly/smeclent Wednesdays, Feb. 21–March 20 4:30–5:30 p.m. • The Church

Holy Week, March 25–28 11 a.m.–1 p.m • The Church

Good Friday, March 29 11 a.m.–noon and 1–2 p.m. • The Church

Contact: Barbara Piana bpiana@smec.org • 713-830-4116

WEDNESDAY Evening Adult Lenten Series



# LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY...

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

Join us weekly as Dr. Levenson offers this five-part review of our Lord's most well-known sermon. Each class is of its own, so weekly attendance is not necessary ... but preferred!

Contact: Amanda DeViney • adeviney@smec.org • 713-830-4110

# THURSDAY AFTERNOON ADULT LENTEN SERIES

Then Sings My Soul

Thursday, March 14 4–5 p.m. • Chapel Reception Hall The Rev. Sharron L. Cox Associate for Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Ministries

During Lent, join St. Martin's Clergy as they share a favorite hymn or song that transformed their lives and their faith, and learn how this drew them closer to Christ.

**Contact:** Amanda DeViney, Clergy Assistant adeviney@smec.org • 713-830-4110





Volunteers are invited to be part of the cast for Palm Sunday Dramatic Re-Enactment Services

Rehearsal Date Saturday, March 23 10 a.m.–noon The Church Palm Sunday Sunday, March 24 9 and 11:15 a.m. services The Church

No "acting" experience needed and costumes will be provided. Adults, youth and children over the age of 10 (with participating parents). Limited time commitment.

Interested? Please respond by Monday, March 18, to Bruce Morgan at robertbrucemorgan@gmail.com.

# DONATE BLOOD SAVE LIVES

# Monday, March 18 9 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Student Life Center

Schedule your next appointment at bit.ly/smecblooddrive

Walk-ins Welcome!



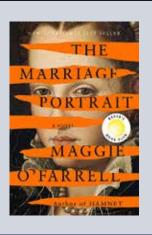
Receive a tumbler as a thank you to helping patients in our local hospitals! (while supplies last)



Questions? Contact Justin Jacobson Avery at events@smec.org or 713-985-3838.



Tuesday, March 19 | 7-8:30 p.m. Children's Life Center, Room 109 and Via Zoom | bit.ly/faithinliteveningzoom



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 "The Marriage Portrait" by Maggie O'Farrell.

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





## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 Noon–1 p.m. • Children's Life Center, Large Pod

#### Christ's Exaltation and Ours led by the Rev. Alex Graham III

St. Martin's Children's Ministry continues its Lunch-And-Learn series this pring with a discussion developed especially for parents of young childre

spring with a discussion developed especially for parents of young children. Join us and grow your love of Jesus and discover what it means to live according to God's Word.

Grab lunch from Café St. Martin's and join us for the conversations.

Contact: Ashley Monachelli • amonachelli@smec.org • 713-985-3816



Stripping of the Palms and Palm Cross Making

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 8:20 A.M. – 5 P.M. • STUDENT LIFE CENTER

Join members of the Altar Guild as volunteers strip, divide the fronds and make palm crosses to distribute on Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday. This annual tradition is a fun and meaningful time of fellowship and service. Please bring scissors.

**Contact:** Barbara Piana bpiana@smec.org • 713-830-4116



How the Christian Revolution Remade the World

with Tom Holland

# Thursday, March 21 • 7 p.m. • The Church



Registration required at bit.ly/032124sponberg

\$20 for adults | \$10 for students



Tom Holland, author and historian, will speak about his book, "Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World." The book looks at how Christ's teachings liberated the Western mind and has been described as the most important theological writing of the last 50 years.



Ron Sponberg was a loyal member of the Church and the Men of St. Martin's. His life was dedicated to God, his family and his country.

Before his death, Ron and his family endowed a lecture series designed to re-educate us about our country's core principles and teach us about their genesis. American democracy, as it should, has always allowed for a healthy debate about the direction of the country.

When its core principles are at risk of being eliminated — whether by those at the right or left of the political spectrum — they need to be defended. This series will remind us of what they are and where they came from.



**Contact:** Juli Browning, Worship Service Coordinator jbrowning@smec.org • 713-985-3845

# student WOrship Night

Palm Sunday

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 5 – 6 P.M. • STUDENT LIFE CENTER All middle and high school students are welcome to join us for prayer, praise, music

and dinner. Parents are welcome!

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

STUDENTS



# HOLY WEEK EASTER AT ST. MARTIN'S

## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

#### **HOLY WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday, March 27 *Traditional Services* 7 a.m. and noon, Holy Eucharist Christ Chapel Taizé Prayer Service 6 p.m., Holy Eucharist Christ Chapel

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 28 *Traditional Service* 7 p.m. • The Church

#### **GOOD FRIDAY**

Friday, March 29 *Traditional Services* Noon and 6 p.m. • The Church Family Table Service Noon • Parish Life Center

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

#### HOLY SATURDAY BAPTISM

Saturday, March 30 10 a.m. • Christ Chapel

# **EASTER DAY**

Easter Morning Breakfast Sunday, March 31 8-11 a.m. · Bagby Parish Hall

**Traditional Worship Services** 7, 9, 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. The Church

**Family Table Service** 8 and 9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

**Riverway Contemporary Service** 11:15 a.m. · Parish Life Center

#### **Student Ministries Easter Egg Hunt** 10:15-10:40 a.m. and 10:45-11 a.m. Student Life Center and Soccer Field



#### Student Mission Trip · June 15-22



#### 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.

NESSEE

ville

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



Celebrate March Birthdays and Anniversaries with Riverway.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 31 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.



To register, visit **bit.ly/2024passioncamp** Total cost: \$800 • Deadline to register: April 30

**Complete trip dates: July 7–13** (Overnight stop in Mobile, Ala. each way)

Middle and high school students completing grades 7–12 in May are invited to join the Student Ministries leaders in Florida for four days of worship, teaching and community service. Meet Christian teens from around the country in worship, music, fun and foundational conversations about being disciples of Christ.

Contact: Florence Ritchie • students@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



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. Sherrie Perkins Vestry Representative Morning



Mrs. Elizabeth Dukes 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. 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

STMARTINSEPISCOPAL.ORG

