

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

March 24, 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

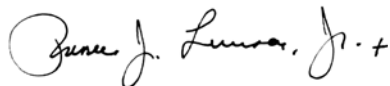
FROM THE RECTOR

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

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

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

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



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

Prayers Before Worship

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

NOTICES

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

St. Martin's asks that anyone coming into a worship service not bring oversized or large backpacks.

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

MARCH 24

Christian Education for Adults, Children's Ministry and 7-1-7 Students will not be offered today or next Sunday in observance of Palm Sunday and Easter. Please join us April 7 when Christian Education classes resume.

MARCH 25-30

Adults

Saintly Stitchers

Monday, March 25

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 26

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 27

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 27

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.

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

Wednesday, March 27

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.

Sterling's Market

Saturday, March 30 | 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.

Women

Christian Life Study

Tuesday, March 26 – Evening Group | 6:30-8 p.m. | Children's Life Center and via Zoom

Thursday, March 28 – Day Group | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Parish Life Center and via Zoom

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

The Moms' Group

Wednesday, March 27

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 Monachelli at 713-985-3816 or amonachelli@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 “Imperial March”

Edward Elgar

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

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Celebrant: Blessed is the King who cometh in the name of the Lord.

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with thy help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby thou hast given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OUR LORD’S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM ACCORDING TO ST. MARK *(remain standing)*

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Let us go forth in peace;

People: In the name of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN 154 “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
 3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
 5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
 2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
 3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818–1866), alt.; Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584–1635), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823–1889).

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray. *(kneel)*

The Celebrant says the Collect

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSONPhilippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
 he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death--
 even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. MARK

(8 a.m. and 6 p.m. only)

Mark 15:1-39

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Please stand.

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

THE NICENE CREED *(8 a.m. and 6 p.m. only)*

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.

(9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. only)

PASSION DRAMA

According to the Gospels

PASSION DRAMA ANTHEMS

“Do This in Remembrance of Me”

Larry Visser

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Gilbert Martin

Please kneel.

PASSION HYMN 168 “O Sacred Head”

1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;
2 In thy most bit - ter pas - sion my heart to share doth cry,

1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:
2 with thee for my sal - va - tion up - on the cross to die.

1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?
 2 Ah, keep my heart thus mov - ed to stand thy cross be - neath,

1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!
 2 to mourn thee, well - be - lov - ed, yet thank thee for thy death.

Words: Paul Gerhardt (1607–1676); sts. 1–3, 5, tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844–1930); st. 4, tr. James Waddell Alexander (1804–1859), alt.; Music: *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* [Passion Chorale], Hans Leo Hassler (1564–1612); adapt. And harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750).

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 Province of the Church of West Africa; 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, especially those remembered today with Altar greenery, ____; 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

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Minister 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

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE *(stand)*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Please be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 28 for upcoming events.

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM “The Holy City”
Stephen Adams

Last night I lay a sleeping, there came a dream so fair, I stood in old Jerusalem beside the temple there. I heard the children singing, and ever as they sang, Methought the voice of Angels from Heaven in answer rang. “Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Lift up your gates and sing, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to your King!” And then methought my dream was changed, the streets no longer rang, Hushed were the loud Hosannas the little children sang; The sun grew dark with mystery, the morn was cold and chill, As the shadows of the cross arose upon a lonely hill. And once again the scene was changed; new earth there seemed to be, I saw the Holy City beside the tideless sea; The light of God was on its streets, the gates were open wide, And all who would might enter, and no one was denied. No need of moon or stars by night, or sun to shine by day, It was the new Jerusalem that would not pass away.

Text: F. E. Weatherly, 1976 ed., (Original copyright 1892).

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.

DOXOLOGY *Gardiner*

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

gifts, to offer thee; And hence with grateful hearts to -

day. Thine own be - fore thy feet we lay.

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

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

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who for our sins was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; who by his suffering and death became the author of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

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.)

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

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

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

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

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

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

AN T H E M “Lamb of God”

F. Melius Christiansen

Lamb of God most holy, who on the cross didst suffer, patient, still and lowly, thyself to scorn didst offer. Our sins by Thee were taken, or hope had us forsaken: Have mercy, O Jesu!

Text: N. Decius (1531). Music: F. Melius Christiansen. © 1938 by Augsburg Publishing House.

H Y M N 4 7 9 “Glory be to Jesus”

1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, who in bit - ter pains
 2 Grace and life e - ter - nal in that blood I find,
 3 Blest through end - less a - ges be the pre - cious stream
 4 Oft as earth ex - ult - ing wafts its praise on high,
 5 Lift ye then your voic - es; swell the might - y flood;

1 poured for me the life - blood from his sa - cred veins!
 2 blest be his com - pas - sion in - fi - nite - ly kind!
 3 which from sin and sor - row doth the world re - deem!
 4 an - gel hosts, re - joic - ing, make their glad re - ply.
 5 loud - er still and loud - er praise the pre - cious blood.

Words: Italian, 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall (1814–1878), alt.; Music: *Wem in Leidenstagen*, Friedrich Filitz (1804–1860).

HYMN 172“Were You There”

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you
 4 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh! _____
 there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh! _____
 there when they pierced him in the side? Oh! _____
 there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh! _____

Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,

trem-ble. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 trem-ble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 trem-ble. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 trem-ble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Words: African-American spiritual; Music: *Were you There*, Afro-American spiritual; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944).

HYMN “Holy, Holy, Holy”

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

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

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

After Communion, the Celebrant says (kneel)

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

HOLY WEEK BLESSING

All stand.

HYMN “Ride On!”

1. Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! Hark! all the tribes ho -
 2. Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly pomp ride
 3. Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! The an - gel ar - mies
 4. Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! Thy last and fierc - est
 5. Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly pomp ride

san - na cry; Thy hum - ble beast pur - sues his road
 on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs now be - gin
 of the sky Look down with sad and wond - d'ring eyes
 strife is nigh; Fa - ther on his sap - phire throne
 on to die; The Bow thy meek head to mor - tal pain,

With palms and scat - ter'd gar - ments strow'd.
 O'er cap - tive death and con - quer'd sin.
 To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 Ex - pects his own an - noint - ed Son.
 Then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Text: Adapted from *Musikalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690; Music: Second Tune *Winchester New*, Henry Hart Milman, 1827, alt.

THE DISMISSAL

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

Minister: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY “Fanfare”
Charles Sellers Lang

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

RECOGNITIONS



GREENERY GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In memory of Mary Gray Lester
by Linda and John Griffin, Laura and Jack Schuhmacher,
and Allison and Philip Lorenzo



BIRTHS

Sept. 12 William Andrew Darby
Son of Lauren and Patrick Darby
Grandson of Dee and James Darby



SYMPATHY

March 16 Evan Gibson Black
James McQueen Easterling, Jr.

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

NOTES

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	Kayla Hamaker	Joseph Powell
Bobbie Adams	Amy Heath	Ophelia Pujol
Carolyn Alban	Mollie Hill	Barbara Quackenbush
Katie and Harvey Altmann	Marguerite Hillgers	Heather Rathnau
Scotty Arnoldy	Russell Hughes	Dana Raymant
Edith Avery	Marilyn Ingham	Marjorie Reeks
Ally Babineaux	Thelma Isenhardt	Phyllis Reinhardt
Shelly Bain	Christine Jean	Monica Rivera
Kathy Beadnell	Mary and Jim Jennings	John Davis Roady
Beth Beathard	John Justice	Joe Rodriguez
Cory Blackman	Sandra "Sandy" Justice	Maggie Rodriguez
Kenny Brown	Mary Anne Kannard	Consuelo Saldana
John Canon	Candi Keebler	Helen and Jim Shaffer
Bella Carosi	Dick Kilday	Caroline Shanahan
Cole Cattan	Marjorie Krajian	Clif Shoemake
Debbie Chernosky	Reggie Lang	Bob Spencer
Doug Clarke	Rhea Latta	Trish St. Jean Martin
Hallie Cooley	Bruce Michael Lee	Paul Therrien
Almeria Cottingham	Nancy Liles	Annie Troung
Michael Craig	Nicole Holford Lockney	Christine Troung
Sam Cruse	Amanda Lodge	Mary Watters
James Cunningham	Ryan Logan	Stephen Wedemeyer
Gail Davis	Bella Martin	Ann Winters
Bobby de Sosa	Ronnie Martin	Stacy Wood
Linda de Sosa	Janet McDaniel	Eric Zoerb
Ross Dunn	Barbara McMahan	Alexi
Kiersten Dyke	Dave McStravick	Atticus
Becca Earhart	Frances Melicks	Elizabeth
Stacey and John Elliott	Len Menefee	Henry
Mary Finucane	Margaret Milner	Julie
Charles Flores	Ruth Moorhead	Laura
Will Fogle	Stuart Nixon	Lynne
Susan Folk	Ann Noel	Mary Jane
Julie G.	Deborah Oliver	Scott
Catherine Gonzales	Andrew O'Malley	Stuart
Nancy Gore	Bob Paddock	
Bette Haidusek	Jim Paddock	
Ann Halverson	Judy Peach	
Jean Hatton	Betty Polando	

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

CONTINUING PRAYERS

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.

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

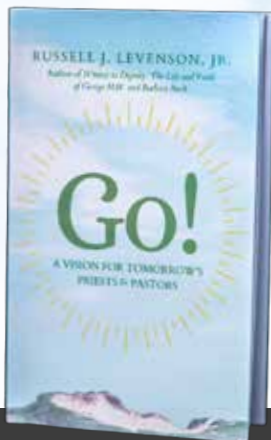
Go! A VISION FOR TOMORROW'S PRIESTS & PASTORS

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."

“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.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

A free guide is available in the Narthex of the Church or download a digital copy at bit.ly/smeclent

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



THE GATHERING

For church members and others in our community who experience memory loss and their caregivers

March 25

10 a.m – 1:30 p.m.

Bagby Parish Hall



Plant a Seed of Greatness

March 25

Bill Parish

For more information, contact Kathy Tellepsen at 713-301-4786 or kattellepsen@me.com.



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
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES



MOSM Kids' Meals

Tuesday, March 26 | 5 p.m.
Parish Life Center Kitchen

Come prepare sandwiches with Men of St. Martin's to help Kids' Meals, which provides and distributes nutritious lunches to hungry children throughout Houston. For more information about Kids' Meals, visit kidsmealshouston.org.

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



HOLY WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

7 a.m. and noon, Holy Eucharist
Christ Chapel

Stay after the noon service for the
Sacrament of Healing (Holy Unction).

Taizé Prayer Service
6 p.m., Holy Eucharist
Christ Chapel



MAUNDY THURSDAY

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

7 p.m. • The Church

Maundy Thursday Liturgy, Stripping of the Altar and Holy Eucharist with the Parish Choir.

The worship service will conclude outdoors near the Wayside Chapel and Great Cross.



GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Traditional Service

*Noon and 6 p.m. • The Church

Liturgy for Good Friday with sermon and Parish Choir performs Movement 1 from *Ein Deutsches Requiem* by Johannes Brahms.

*The noon service will be live-streamed.

Family Table Service

Noon • Parish Life Center

This worship service is specifically designed for families.

Riverway Contemporary Service

6:30 p.m. • Parish Life Center

Join the Riverway community for a relaxed service, featuring the liturgy for Good Friday, sermon and special music.



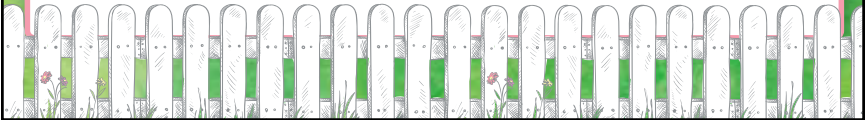
The Episcopal Church Women of St. Martin's Invites You to



Saturday, March 30 • 10 a.m. • Free Admission
Parish Life Center
Bring your egg basket!

The adventures begin with a reading of the Easter story in the Parish Life Center, followed by an Easter egg hunt, crafts, a petting zoo, face painting, balloons and more. Everyone is welcome!

Contact: Valerie Rivera • 713-985-3817 • vrivera@smec.org



HOLY SATURDAY BAPTISMS

SATURDAY, MARCH 30
10 a.m. • Christ Chapel

The rite of Holy Baptism is a special occasion for St. Martin's — a service of joy that underscores the communal aspect of worship and expresses God's presence in the midst of His people.

People of all ages and stages of life are invited to enter into a lifelong journey with Christ through the sacrament of baptism.

Join us and welcome new members to St. Martin's!

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

EASTER

AT ST. MARTIN'S

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

The Sunday of the Resurrection

Easter Morning Breakfast *Hosted by St. Martin's Vestry*

8–11 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall

Before or after the Easter services, enjoy a complimentary breakfast served and sponsored by the current and past Vestry of St. Martin's.

Traditional Worship Services

7, 9, *11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. • The Church

Holy Eucharist; festive music by the Parish Choir, Gloria Dei Organ, brass and tympani. **The 11:15 a.m. service will be live-streamed.*

Family Table Services

8 and 9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

Join us for a family-friendly worship service with Holy Eucharist.

Riverway Service

11:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

This worship service for students, families and adults features the Holy Eucharist and beautiful music.

Student Ministries Easter Egg Hunt

10:15–10:40 a.m. and 10:45–11:10 a.m. • Student Life Center

Students are invited to take part in this tradition with a twist!

Sunday School

Sunday school classes will not meet March 31 in observance of Easter.

Childcare

Childcare will be provided for infants through three-year-olds in the Children's Life Center during all Easter morning services.



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

RIVERWAY

Celebration Sunday!

Celebrate March Birthdays and Anniversaries
with Riverway.

EASTER 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.

Student Mission Trip · June 15–22

Nashville TENNESSEE



Registration: bit.ly/2024nashvillemissiontrip

Deadline to register: March 31

Cost: \$800

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

An Opportunity To See Nashville With The Lord's Heart And Eyes

This summer, the students and their leaders will head to Nashville for a week-long mission dedicated to help local elderly, children and homeless people. “Week of Hope” participants will serve the non-profit Group Missions team through Jesus-centered programs that combine work, fun and worship.

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

Take charge of your
AGING JOURNEY

**Amazing Place is offering a FREE three-week
"Aging Solo" course! Space is limited!**

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 3–17 • 1–3 p.m.

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Chapel Reception Hall

The key to aging well is planning your aging journey. Aging Solo will help you get your documents in order, define your support network and determine your next steps.

To register, contact Mehrnaz Gill at
mgill@amazingplacehouston.org or 713-440-9578.




SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR
Healing and Wholeness
Order of St. Luke

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, April 3 | 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.

*The
Order
of the
Daughters
of the King*



**SATURDAY, APRIL 6 • 10 A.M.
CHILDREN'S LIFE CENTER**

BOOK STUDY

“LIFE OF THE BELOVED” BY HENRI J.M. NOUWEN

Henri Nouwen is considered one of the great spiritual writers of our day. This book is about a spirituality that speaks to those living in a secularized society.

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



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

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Following the 11:15 a.m. service

Meet in the Narthex

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

Everyone is welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

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



HIGH SCHOOL *Retreat*

717 STUDENTS

April 26-28 • Lake Livingston
Cost is \$250

For students in grades 9-12

Join us for a weekend away from the busyness of life to spend time together in fellowship with one another and the Lord. We will talk about the Song of Songs and step out Saturday evening for a fancy dress dinner.

Sign up at bit.ly/smechsretreat

Deadline to register is April 14 or until the trip is full.

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



PASSION CAMP — JULY 8-12, 2024
DAYTONA BEACH
OCEAN CENTER

717 STUDENTS

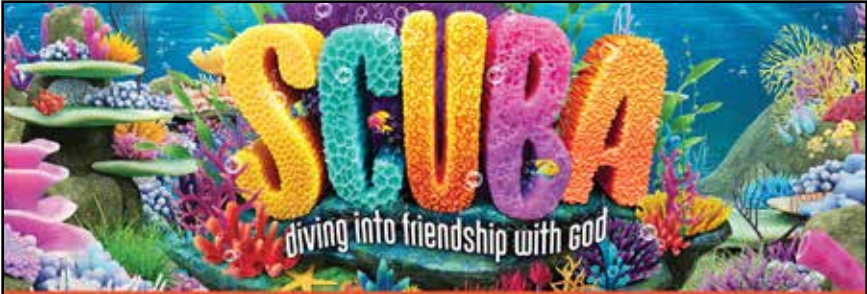
To register, visit bit.ly/2024passioncamp

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

JUNE 10–13 • 9:30 A.M. – NOON

Only grades 1–5 are available

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

WAYS *to* GIVE



TEXT

Text SMEC to 73256



MAIL

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



ONLINE

bit.ly/smecgiving



BEQUESTS

Contact: Ashley Pratkan
apratka@smec.org or 346-335-8658



TRANSFER OF ASSETS

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

For all stewardship questions, contact Debbie Hutchison at
dhutchison@smec.org or 713-985-3803.

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

General Questions

Contact the Reception Desk at
713-621-3040.

Prayer Requests

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

After Hours Emergencies

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

Death Notifications and Funerals

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

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. Elizabeth Dukes

*Vestry Representative
Morning*



Mrs. Courtney Schilling

*Vestry Representative
Evening*

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ
The Head of This Church



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



The Rev. 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

