SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7, 2024



OUR MISSION

To bring by the power of the Holy Spirit as many people as possible to know, love, and serve God as revealed through Jesus Christ; and to be transformed into spiritually renewed disciples of Jesus who know, love and serve one another and the world.



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.

June J. Luna, J. +

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

APRIL 7

Adults

8+ with the Rev. Gill Keyworth

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

Theology for Life with the Rev. John Sundara

"The Art of the Resurrection" 10:15-11 a.m. Bagby Parish Hall

Family Life Class

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

Seekers with the Rev. Gill Keyworth

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.

7-1-7 Students

Sunday Get-Togethers

For students in grades 6-12 10:15-11 a.m. Student Life Center, Living Room

For more information about 7-1-7 Students, contact Florence Ritchie at 713-985-3843 or students@smec.org.

Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School

For children through grade 5 10:15-11 a.m. Children's Life Center

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

For more information about Children's Ministry, contact Rocio Velazquez at 713-985-3807 or rvelazquez@smec.org.

Music Ministry

Young Singers of St. Martin's

For children and youth in grades 1-12 8:15 a.m. | Rehearsal in Children's Life Center 9:15 a.m. | Family Table service in Parish Life Center

For more information about Young Singers of St. Martin's, contact Carole Nelson at 346-335-8677 or cnelson@smec.org.

APRIL 8-13

Adults

Saintly Stitchers

Monday, April 8

10 a.m.-noon | Activity Center, Upper Hall East

Saintly Stitchers fill St. Martin's with pew kneelers and other gifts for worship spaces. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, April 9

9-11:30 a.m. | Activity Center, Family Room

Knit and crochet shawls to be blessed for those in need of prayer. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

Blanket Ladies

Wednesday, April 10

10-11:30 a.m. | Activity Center, Family Room

Make receiving blankets for newborn infants at local charity hospitals. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild

Wednesday, April 10

Noon-3 p.m. | Activity Center, Upper Hall East

St. Clare's Guild undertakes a variety of needlepoint projects in worship spaces and for outreach programs. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

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

Wednesday, April 10

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

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

St. Martin's 20s & 30s

Wednesday, April 10

7-9 p.m. | Children Life Center

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

Parish Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 11 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Choir Behearsal 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, April 13 | Rain or Shine 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Corner of Woodway and Sage

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

Men

Men of St. Martin's

Thursday, April 11 7-8 a.m. | Bagby Parish Hall

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

Dads' Bible Study

Thursday, April 11 8-9 a.m. | Welcome Center

Join dads with children of all ages for coffee, fellowship and Bible study. For more information, contact the Rev. Wesley Arning at 346-335-8680 or rwarning@smec.org.

Women

Christian Life Study

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

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

April 11 is Visitor Day, the perfect time to introduce women to CLS!

The Moms' Group

Wednesday, April 10 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.

7-1-7 Students

Life Groups

Wednesday, April 10 6-8 p.m. | Student Life Center

Students in grades 6-12 connect with their peers for fun activities and great discussions about faith and life. Please bring \$5 to cover the cost of dinner. For more information, contact the Rev. John Sundara at 713-985-3842 or jsundara@smec.org.

HOLY EUCHARIST

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

VOLUNTARY"Symphonie Roman: Choral" Charles-Marie Widor

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





Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837–1898); Music: Hyfrydol, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811–1887).

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says

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

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



Text: Edmund L. Budry, 1904. Music: Judas Maccabeus from *Harmonia Sacra* (c. 1753); arr. from G. F. Handel (1747). © 2006 Hope Publishing Co. Reprinted under CCLI #805314.

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 everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; 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 hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

All stand.

HYMN 209 (vs. 1-2)....."We Walk by Faith"



 $Words: Henry\ Alford\ (1810-1871),\ alt.;\ Music: \textit{St.\ Botolph},\ Gordon\ Slater\ (1896-1979);\ Copyright:\ Music:\ By\ permission\ of\ Oxford\ University\ Press.$

(morning services)

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPELJohn 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

(evening service)

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPELLuke 24:13-35, NIV

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining readings for the day are on page 29.



Words: Henry Alford (1810–1871), alt.; Music: St. Botolph, Gordon Slater (1896–1979); Copyright: Music: By permission of Oxford University Press.

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;

being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation

came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the

Virgin Mary, and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried;

and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,

and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father, and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped

and glorified;

who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church;

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;

and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (kneel)

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

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

That thy Name may be glorified by all people.

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

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

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

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do thy will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in thy sight.

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

That they may be delivered from their distress.

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

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

May we also come to share in thy heavenly kingdom.

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

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

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

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

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Minister says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

A moment of silence is observed.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant stands and says

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

THE PEACE (stand)

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

People: And with thy spirit.

Please be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 33 for upcoming events.

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM""How Lovely are the Messengers"
Felix Mendelssohn

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace! To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words; throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

 $Text: Romans\ 10:15\ (Paraphrased).\ Organ\ accompaniment\ by\ H.\ Clough-Leighter.$

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.

DOXOLOGYEaster Hymn





Words: Latin, 14th cent.; tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt. St. 4, Charles Wesley.

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.

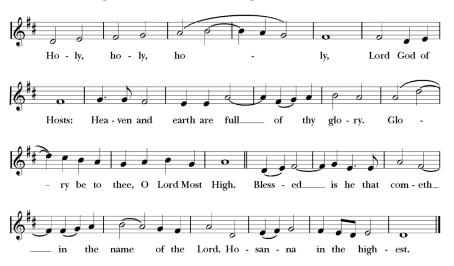
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life.

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

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

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



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

The Celebrant continues (kneel)

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

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

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

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

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

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant and People

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



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

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

During the season of Easter, the Prayer of Humble Access is not a part of our public liturgy. You are invited to use it for your private preparation before receiving Communion.

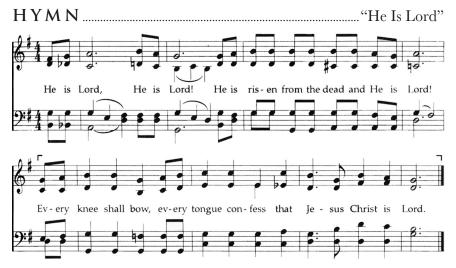
We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious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

Deep peace of the running wave to you, Deep peace of the flowing air to you, Deep peace of the quiet earth to you, Deep peace of the shining stars to you, Deep peace of the gentle night to you, Moon and stars, pour their healing light on you, Deep peace of Christ, of Christ the light of the world to you, Deep peace of Christ to you.

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Text: based on Philippians 2:10-11; Copyright 1977 Marvin V. Frey; All rights reserved, UBP. CCLI #805314.



Music and Text: Peter Scholtes; based on John 13:35; © 1966 by F.E.L. Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #805314.



Music and text by Robert Lowry; Tune: Hanson Place. Based on Revelations 22:1-5.

After Communion, the Celebrant says (kneel) Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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

At 9 and 11:15 a.m., after the Post-Communion Prayer, members of the Shepherd's Guild may come forward. The priest or deacon gives the Sacrament to the Eucharistic visitors, saying In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us the Communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we share one bread, one cup. **Amen.**

THE EASTER BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All stand.



 $Words: Cecil \ Frances \ Alexander \ (1818-1895), \ alt.; \ Music: \textit{Unser Herrscher}, \ Joachim \ Neander \ (1650-1680).$

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

VOLUNTARY "March"

George Frederic Handel

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

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

On the occassion of their marriage

by Nitha Inthavong and Andrew David Nolan

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Jonathan McLean Goossen, Jr.

by Catherine and Jay Goossen

In thanksgiving for the baptisms of Lachlan and Parker Lyman

by Sande and Dwight Lyman

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Hudson Lawrence Melody

by Emma and John Melody

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Hugo Roussel

by Teresa Procter and Nicolas Roussel

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Henry James Swanson

by Allie and Brian Swanson

In thanksgiving for the 30th anniversary of their marriage

by Marthann M. and Michael Weaber



BAPTISMS

March 30 Jonathan McLean Goossen, Jr.

Hudson Lawrence Melody Hugo Kenneth Roussel Henry James Swanson Martin Robert Tilson IV

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

READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE FIRST LESSONActs 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

THE PSALM Psalm 133

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, * when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head * that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, * and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon * that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: * life for evermore.

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 Ann Halverson Judy Peach Bobbie Adams Jean Hatton Betty Polando Carolyn Alban Kayla Hamaker Joseph Powell Katie and Harvey Altmann Amy Heath Ophelia Pujol

Scotty Arnoldy Mollie Hill Barbara Quackenbush Edith Avery Marguerite Hillgers Heather Rathnau Ally Babineaux Russell Hughes Dana Raymant Shelly Bain Marilyn Ingham Marjorie Reeks Kathy Beadnell Thelma Isenhart Phyllis Reinhardt Beth Beathard Christine Iean Monica Rivera Mary and Jim Jennings Cory Blackman John Davis Roady John Justice Kenny Brown Joe Rodriguez

Harry Burrow Sandra "Sandy" Justice Maggie Rodriguez John Canon Mary Anne Kannard Consuelo Saldana Bella Carosi Candi Keebler Helen and Iim Shaffer Caroline Shanahan Cole Cattan Dick Kildav Debbie Chernosky Marjorie Krajian Clif Shoemake Doug Clarke Reggie Lang **Bob Spencer**

Hallie Cooley Rhea Latta Trish St. Jean Martin
Almeria Cottingham Bruce Michael Lee Paul Therrien
Michael Craig Nancy Liles Annie Troung
Sam Cruse Nicole Holford Lockney Christine Troung

James CunninghamAmanda LodgeMary WattersGail DavisRyan LoganStephen Wedemeyer

Bobby de Sosa Bella Martin Ann Winters Linda de Sosa Ronnie Martin Stacy Wood Ross Dunn Ianet McDaniel Eric Zoerb Kiersten Dyke Barbara McMahon Alexi Becca Earhart Dave McStravick Atticus Stacey and John Elliott Frances Melicks Elizabeth Mary Finucane Len Menefee Henry Charles Flores Margaret Milner Julie Will Fogle Ruth Moorhead Laura Stuart Nixon Susan Folk Lynne Julie G. Ann Noel Mary Jane

Catherine Gonzales Deborah Oliver Scott
Nancy Gore Andrew O'Malley Stuart

Shea Guinn Bob Paddock Bette Haidusek Jim Paddock

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.

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.

SERMON NOTES



The Rt. Rev. Mike Hill, the 55th Bishop of Bristol returns to St. Martin's in April!

Bishop Mike Hill was Archdeacon of Berkshire before being appointed Bishop of Buckingham and later became the 55th Bishop of Bristol. He was born in Manchester and educated at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and at Ridley Hall, Cambridge.



PREACHING

Sunday, April 14

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

Sunday, April 21

8, 9 and 11:15 a.m. · *The Church*

Sunday, April 28

9:15 a.m. · Family Table 11:15 a.m. · Riverway Parish Life Center

TEACHING

Theology for Life

"What Western Culture No Longer Gets" 10:15–11 a.m. · *Bagby Parish Hall*

Sunday, April 14: Sacrifice

Sunday, April 21: Forgiveness

Sunday, April 28: Community

Men of St. Martin's

Thursdays, April 18 and 25

7 a.m. · Bagby Parish Hall

To setup an appointment with Bishop Hill, contact Lesley Hough at lhough@smec.org or 346-335-8654.



Please plan to join us on Sunday, May 5, for one or more of these special offerings.

MORNING

8 a.m. • The Church • Holy Eucharist with Sermon by Dr. Levenson Traditional Worship Service

9:15 a.m. • The Church • Holy Eucharist with Sermon by Dr. Levenson Combined Traditional and Family Table Worship Services

10:15 a.m. · Bagby Parish Hall · "A Trip Down Memory Lane" with Russ and Laura Children's event in Activity Center; childcare available in Children's Life Center

11:15 a.m. • The Church • Holy Eucharist with Sermon by Dr. Levenson Traditional Worship Service • Riverway will join Dr. Levenson's last service

EVENING

5:30 p.m. · Bagby Parish Hall · "Fajitas and Farewell" Celebration Dinner for Adults 6:30 p.m. · The Church

The Kingdom Pickers Concert with Russ and Laura, featuring Haley and Tom Lynch
*No 6 p.m. Worship Service or Childcare

Finally, please continue to pray for Russ and Laura, for our wonderful Parish, for the Clergy and Staff, and our fifth Rector. On behalf of the Vestry of St. Martin's, we offer our sincere thanks for your continued generosity.



BOOKS BY DR. LEVENSON

PUBLISHED BOOKS

Be inspired with these books that explore faith







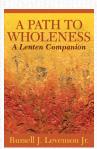
GO!

IN GOD'S GRIP

WITNESS TO DIGNITY

DEVOTIONALS

Be inspired with these books that explore faith









A Path to Wholeness

Bits of Heaven

Finding Shelter

Preparing Room

For more details or to purchase books, visit

bit.ly/levensonbooks





SERMON SERIES 11:15 A.M. PARISH LIFE CENTER

APRIL 7	The Breaking of Bread Road to Emmaus The Rev. Wesley Arning • Luke 24:13–35
APRIL 14	Discipleship Calling Andrew and Peter The Rev. John D. Sundara • John 1:35–50
APRIL 21	The Scriptures Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr. • Acts 8:26–40
APRIL 28	Living Water Samaritan Woman Bishop Mike Hill • John 4:7–15; 27–30; 39–42
MAY 5	Riverway joins Dr. Levenson's last service in The Church
MAY 12	Power of the Spirit Ananias of Damascus Eric Priest, Lay Associate Pastor • Acts 9:10–19

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





Sundays April 7, May 12 and 19 10:15 – 11 a.m. Bagby Parish Hall

THE ART of the RESURRECTION

with the Rev. John D. Sundara



In this class, we will look at three events in the Gospel through the medium of art and see how these works draw us closer into the Bible, so that we can encounter the risen Lord anew.

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







Tuesday, April 9 | 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

Spend some of your Tuesday night getting to know the children and Mama Isabel in Casa San Martin in Cochabamba, Bolivia over Zoom. All ages are welcome, and a translator will be available.

Contact Tracee Tindol for the zoom link at outreach@smec.org or 713-985-3811.



ACTIVITY CENTER

MAT PILATES

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.**

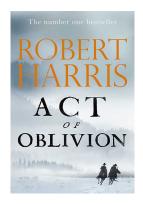
MOST CLASSES ARE FREE!

For more information, visit bit.ly/smecactivitycenter.

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



DAY GROUP



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

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

This month, we discuss "Act of Oblivion" by Robert Harris.

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



Chef Nancy Le

Learn how to prepare authentic Vietnamese dishes in this hands-on cooking class with Chef Nancy Le.

Thursday, April 11 • Parish Life Center, Kitchen 6–8 p.m. • Cost is \$75

Sign up at bit.ly/cafestmartinscooking6

Chef Le will teach techniques on sautéeing, spring roll paper rolling and stove-top white rice preparation. These are simple typical Vietnamese dishes that can be achieved in your home kitchen.

Contact: Chrissy Kana • ckana@smec.org • 713-985-3806



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

Fi family table

Public Baptisms

Sunday, April 14 9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

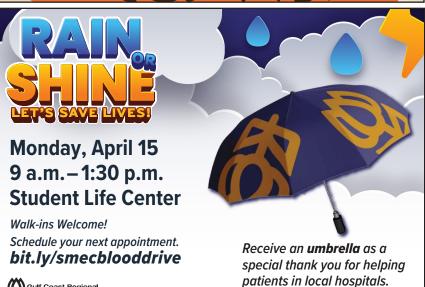
The rite of Holy Baptism is a special occasion for St. Martin's — a service of joy that underscores the communal aspect of worship and expresses God's presence in the midst of His people. Whenever possible, St. Martin's welcomes new members into the Body of Christ on festal days that emphasize the meaning of our Baptism.

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

For more information, contact Rocio Velazquez at rvelazquez@smec.org or 713-985-3807.







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

Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center



(while supplies last)







MEMBERSHIP 101

MONDAY, APRIL 15

Bagby Parish Hall and Online • 6-9 p.m. • Dinner will be served. *Reservations are required by 5 p.m. Sunday, April 14.*

Learn more about the mission and core values of St. Martin's and broaden your understanding of our ministries and your role in the Church.

This will be the last class that the Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr. will lead!

CONTACT

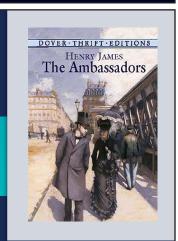
Kathy Johnson, Director of Membership membership@smec.org • 713-985-3834

Register at bit.ly/Membership-101 Case sensitive



EVENING GROUP

Tuesday, April 16 | 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 Ambassadors" by Henry James.

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



April 22

10 a.m-1:30 p.m.

Bagby Parish Hall

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



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





5th Grade Students 10:15 a.m. Student Life Center



Sunday Get-Togethers.

APRIL 21

Tour of the Student Life Center for 5th graders.

MAY 19

Parents and 5th graders learn about our 2024-25 programs.

JUNE 2

5th grade "graduates" permanently move to Student Ministries.

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





The Ladies For Literacy Guild, in partnership with St. Martin's Episcopal Church presents:

JEAN BECKER

in conversation with Khambrel Marshall to discuss her book

JEAN BECKER

NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author of THE MAN I KNEW

CHARACTER MATTERS

...and Other Life Lessons from GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH



Wednesday, April 24

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Parish Life Center

To register, visit,

barbarabushhouston.org/bookclub

All are welcome! Space is limited and RSVP is required.

Books will be available at the event for signing.

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



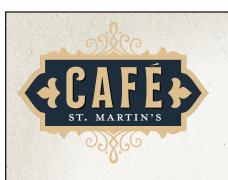
Graduating high school seniors and their families are invited to a breakfast celebration as St. Martin's will recognize our graduates. Please join us as we applaud their accomplishments and encourage them in their next adventure.

Parents, we need your help! Please share your child's future plans (college, specialized career path, armed forces, etc.) so that we can recognize each one.

Register » bit.ly/seniorrecognitionsunday (RSVP by April 28)

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





HOURS

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

View our menu at bit.ly/cafestmartins

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

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

CONTACT

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





NOTICE. GIVE. MAKE. BLESS.

To learn more visit: bit.ly/smecuto

United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church is a way to practice gratitude and change the world.

Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box or UTO Envelope.

UTO blue Boxes are available in the Welcome Center and you'll find UTO envelopes in the Church pews.

One-hundred percent of all funds given to UTO are granted the following year to support innovative mission and ministry in the Episcopal Church.



HHC CARES

Caregiving, Aging, Resilience, Ethics, & Spirituality

CAREGIVER'S CORNER

Join us and discover the essential tools to navigate caregiving for loved ones with dementia at HHCI CARES' Caregiver's Corner.

For more information, contact Peggy Determeyer at pdetermeyer@hhci.org or 346-335-8622

> **MEETS WEEKLY** VIA ZOOM BEGINNING **MONDAY, APRIL 8**

REGISTER AT bit.ly/3vkggVn

AT 10 AM - NOON

WAYS TO GIVE



TEXT Text SMFC to 73256



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



ONLINE

bit.ly/smecgiving



BEQUESTS

Contact: Ashley Pratka at 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.

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.



Mr. Scott Anderson Vestry Representative Morning



Mr. Milton WestVestry 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. 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.

