## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## April 21, 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.

The Pay Dr. Puscell I Layonson In Page

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.

<sup>\*</sup>indicates when latecomers may be seated so as not to disturb other worshipers

# THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

#### **APRIL 21**

#### Adults

#### 8+ with the Rev. Naomi Sundara

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

#### Theology for Life with the Rev. Wesley Arning and Joy Hilley

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

#### Family Life Class with the Revs. Alex Graham and John Sundara

"Human Sexuality" 10:15-11 a.m. Activity Center, Game Room

#### Seekers with the Rev. Naomi Sundara

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 and Youth Choir of St. Martin's

For children in grades 1-5 and youth in grades 6-12 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 22-27**

#### **Adults**

#### Saintly Stitchers

Monday, April 22

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 23

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 24 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 24

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

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

#### **Church Tours**

Wednesday, April 24 11 a.m.-noon | The Church

The Docent Guild offers a formal tour of The Church and Dr. Henning will perform on the Gloria Dei organ. To schedule a group tour or special tours of The Church windows, Christ Chapel or Campus gardens, please contact the Docent Line at 713-830-4117. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

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

Wednesday, April 24

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 24 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 25 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 27 | 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 25 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 isundara@smec.org.

#### Dads' Bible Study

Thursday, April 25 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 23 – Evening Group | 6:30-8 p.m. | Children's Life Center and via Zoom Thursday, April 25 – Day Group | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Parish Life Center and via Zoom

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

#### The Moms' Group

Wednesday, April 24 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 24 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.

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





Words: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861, after John Mason Neale (1818–1856), alt.; Music: Westminster Abbey, Henry Purcell (1659–1695).

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

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

#### Please be seated.

### THE LESSON ......1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

All stand

### HYMN 663 (vs. 1-2)....... "The Lord My God My Shepherd Is"



Words: F. Bland Tucker (1895–1984); para. of Psalm 23; Music: Crimond, melody Jesse Seymour Irvine (1836–1887); harm. Hymnal 1982

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL ......John 10:11-18

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining readings for the day are on page 27.





Words: F. Bland Tucker (1895–1984); para. of Psalm 23; Music: Crimond, melody Jesse Seymour Irvine (1836–1887); harm. Hymnal 1982.

#### Please be seated.

### THE SERMON ......" "The Good Shepherd" The Rev. Lisa R. Neilson

### THE NICENE CREED (stand)

Celebrant and People

I believe in one God,

the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of his Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,

begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father;

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation

came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the

Virgin Mary,

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried;

and the third day he rose again according to

the Scriptures,

and ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of the Father,

and he shall come again, with glory,

to judge both the quick and the dead;

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,

who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;

who with the Father and the Son together

is worshiped

and glorified;

who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church;

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;

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

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (kneel)

Minister and People pray responsively
Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

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

### That thy Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai and Hector, our bishops; the Clergy of this Parish; in the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, for the Anglican Church of Australia; 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 31 for upcoming events.

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

#### Celebrant

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

#### Presenter

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

Celebrant: Do you desire to continue your journey into Christ as

a member of St. Martin's Episcopal Church?

New Members: We do.

Celebrant: Will you commit yourself to seek and serve Christ in

this community of faith and pledge to work, pray, and

give to build up our common life?

New Members: We will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you who witness these promises, do all in your

power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People: We will.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

### THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM ......""The Lord is My Shepherd"

John Rutter

The Lord is my Shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for His Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For Thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me: Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. But Thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Text: Psalm 23 © 1978, Oxford University Press, Inc.

### 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 ......Easter 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.

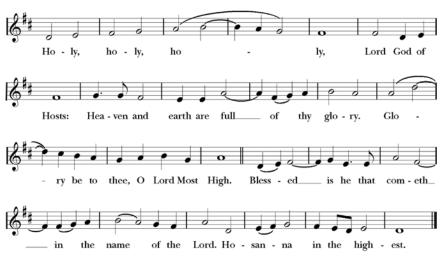
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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.** 

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant says

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

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.

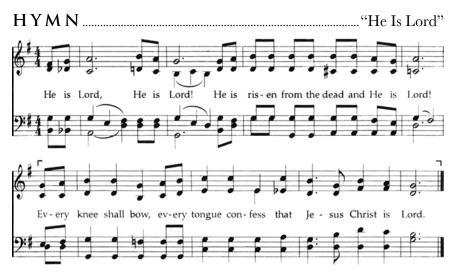
The Celebrant says the Invitation.

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.

# ANTHEM ....." "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" Philip Stopford

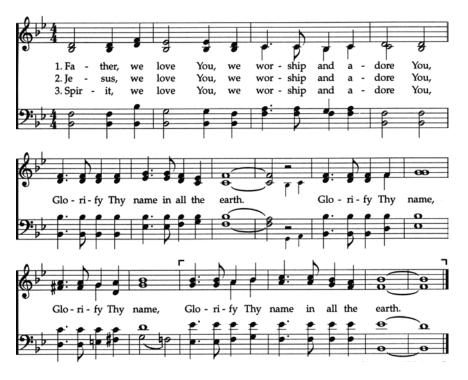
The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever. Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me. And on his shoulder gently laid and home rejoicing brought me. In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me, Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me. Thou spredst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth; And, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth! And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never. Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Words: Henry W. Baker. Music: Philip Stopford. © 2014. MorningStar Music Publishers.



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





 $Music\ and\ text: Donna\ Adkins; @\ 1976, 1978, 1981\ Maranatha!\ Music\ (Admin.\ By\ the\ Copyright\ Co.)\ CCLI\ \#805314.$ 



Al - le - lu - ia. He is

here.

Music and Text: Copyright © Martha Butler, 1141 S. Landing, Leasburg, NC 27291 UPB.

com-ing,

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

#### Celebrant and People

lu - ia, He is

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.

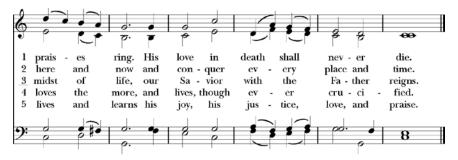
At 9 and 11:15 a.m., after the Post-Communion Prayer, members of the Shepherd's Guild may come forward. The priest or deacon gives the Sacrament to the Eucharistic visitors, saying In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us 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: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), rev.; Music: Truro, melody from Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792–1872). © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

#### THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

VOLUNTARY ......"Water Music: Fanfare" George F. Handel

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

### RECOGNITIONS



#### FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Isla Scott Campbell

by her parents, Nicole and William Campbell

In thanksgiving for the baptism of William Andrew Darby

by his parents, Lauren and Patrick Darby and

his grandparents, Dee and James Darby

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Wake William Francis

by Kenner and Richard Francis

In thanksgiving for the April 20 marriage of Patricia Lind and Michael Higgins by Patricia's children and their families: the Taylor/McIlroys, the Taylors,

the Turners and the Paxtons

In memory of August Spencer Cummings by the John Adkins family



#### BIRTHS

Dec. 28 Hallie Katherine Bell

Daughter of Kimberly and James Bell

Jan. 16 Hattie Louise Hibbert

Daughter of Madeline and John Edward Hibbert Granddaughter of Sharon and Jim Hibbert

Feb. 8 Sutton Elizabeth Signorelli

Daughter of Rachel and Fred Signorelli Granddaughter of Susan and Bob Porter



#### BAPTISMS

April 14 Madeline Rose Bock
Matthew Brody Bock
Tucker Raymond Cravens
Clara Olive Scully
Elizabeth Mary Swain



#### WEDDINGS

April 13 Lauren Michelle Jaehne and Colin Thomas Burns



#### SYMPATHY

March 29 August Spencer Cummings

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

### READINGS FOR THE DAY

### THE FIRST LESSON ......Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

### THE PSALM ......Psalm 23, KJV

- The Lord is my shepherd; \* 1
  - I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: \* he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- He restoreth my soul: \* 3

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, 4 I will fear no evil: \*

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

- Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: \* 5 thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: \* 6 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

### 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:

Hillary Stonger

Paul Therrien

Annie Troung

Mary Watters

Ann Winters

Stacy Wood Eric Zoerb

Atticus

Christine Troung

Stephen Wedemeyer

Elizabeth and Scott

Bobbie Adams Mary and Jim Jennings Carolyn Alban John Justice Sandra "Sandy" Justice **Buck Anderson** Scotty Arnoldy Mary Anne Kannard Edith Avery Dick Kilday Shelly Bain Marjorie Krajian Beth Beathard Reggie Lang Cory Blackman Bruce Michael Lee Cathy Blackwell Nancy Liles John Boysen Nicole Holford Lockney Harry Burrow Amanda Lodge John Canon Ryan Logan Hallie Cooley Madelyn Markham Almeria Cottingham Ronnie Martin Sam Cruse Ianet McDaniel Barbara McMahon James Cunningham Gail Davis Frances Melicks Bobby de Sosa Len Menefee Linda de Sosa

Ross Dunn

Becca Earhart Stacey and John Elliott

Mary Finucane

Charles Flores

Will Fogle

Susan Folk

Ryan Logan Henry
Madelyn Markham Julie
Ronnie Martin Laura
Janet McDaniel Lynne
Barbara McMahon Mary Jane
Frances Melicks Roger
Len Menefee Sarah
Stuart Nixon Stuart
Ann Noel
Deborah Oliver
Bob Paddock
Jim Paddock

Catherine Gonzales Barbara Quackenbush Nancy Gore Phyllis Reinhardt **Julia Richards** Shea Guinn Cissy Gully Monica Rivera Bette Haidusek John Davis Roady Ann Halverson Rhet Rollins Consuelo Saldana Iean Hatton Helen and Jim Shaffer Mollie Hill Marguerite Hillgers Caroline Shanahan Cecilia Illeman Clif Shoemake Marilyn Ingham **Bob Spencer** 

Judy Peach

Joseph Powell

Ophelia Pujol

Thelma Isenhart Trish St. Jean Martin Christine Jean Jim and Jan Stokes

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



# PRAYER FOR RUSS AND LAURA

Lord God,

We are filled with gratitude for the beautiful ministry of Russ and Laura Levenson. How we have been blessed! Thank you, Father, for the many, many ways they have faithfully pointed us to You. Because of their 17 years of faithful leadership, our faith community has grown and flourished. We know they will continue to be a light for Christ's love in their new life ahead.

We ask that You continue to give the Levensons your wisdom, strength and courage. Guide them with Your Holy Spirit in the path you have set before them. We thank You for the way they have loved and served our Church and Congregation, and give you all the praise!

In Your holy name, we trust, Amen.

- I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you, I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel from the first day until now. And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on.
  - Philippians 1:3-6



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

#### **MORNING**

 $8\,\mathrm{a.m.}$  • 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

### Please R.S.V.P for dinner by April 28 at smec.org/russ-farewell.

6:30 p.m. • Concert • The Church The Kingdom Pickers 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.

Contact: Brittney Pena • bpena@smec.org • 713-985-3821

## BOOKS BY DR. LEVENSON

### PUBLISHED BOOKS

Be inspired with these books that explore faith







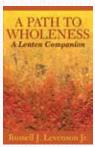
GO!

**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







On Saturday, April 13, the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of Texas, presided over our Confirmation service. Please join us in congratulating those we welcomed to the Episcopal Church by confirmation, reception and reaffirmation.

**Confirmed** 

#### **ADULTS**

Rea	ffirme	ad		
nca.	шиш	:u		

Lisa Cole Nichole Hendrickson-Cerrillo Sarah Graham Alexi Holford

Sarah Graham Alexi Holford

Christopher Justl

\*\*Received\*\* McKenzi McAdams\*\*

Christopher Cerrillo Donna Mintz

Doma vintz

Keith Moriarty

Confirmed Brittani Pena

Patrick Burch Rob Stillwell

George Carmichael Sheryl Stillwell

Aiden Cerrillo Jack Wood

Richard Cole Jane Wood

Randolph Gonzalez Joel Wood

Samuel Gonzalez

## STUDENTS CONFIRMED

Oliver Absmeier

Adaline Bailey

Rathleen Bowes

Mackenzie Bowes

Laine Parrish
Payton Peacock
Joseph Pearce
Lee Pearce

Laura CarterRiley RedlingerCatherine ClampittConnor RoadyAdelaide DooleyOliver ReidElizabeth EssalihSienna Reid

Ann Fertitta Harry Richardson Evelyn Graham Henry Simons Madeleine Harvin Taylor Synnott

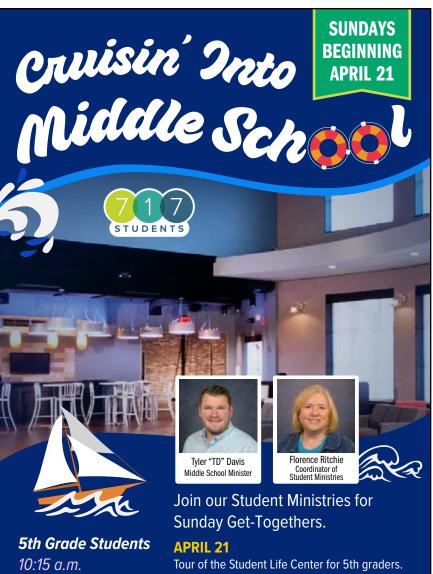
Wesley Hennekes Leighton Vermillion

Leighton Hinton Brinkley West
Caroline Hull James Wynn
Frances Meyer Hannah Zoerb
Cary Miller John Zoerb

Lawson O'Donnell

If you have questions about confirmation for students, please email students@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

If you have questions about confirmation for adults, please email jbrowning@stmartinsepiscopal.org.



Student Life Center



# **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

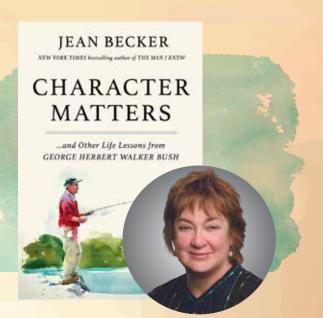




The Ladies For Literacy Guild, in partnership with St. Martin's Episcopal Church presents:

# JEAN BECKER

in conversation with Khambrel Marshall to discuss her book



# 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



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.



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

# ACTIVITY CENTER

# **ZUMBA**

TUESDAYS 10–10:45 a.m. Aerobics Room

Join Sandy for a class that is an easy-tofollow, high energy, calorie burning, total body dance-based workout!

Open to ALL levels.

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





Saturday, April 27 | 9 a.m.—noon 3434 Branard, Houston, TX 77027

Organize and distribute food at the Emergency Services location for the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC). CCSC assists the poor, hungry, disabled and otherwise needy, and provides a back-to-school and Christmas program for low-income children.

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

# RIVERWAY

# Celebration Sunday!

Celebrate April Birthdays and Anniversaries with Riverway.

# SUNDAY, APRIL 28 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.

# ST. CLARE'S NEEDLEPOINT GUILD



# Do you love to needlepoint?

Consider joining St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild. This guild welcomes stitchers of any skill level and teaches needlepoint from basic stitches to detailed and advanced work.



# **SUNDAY, APRIL 28** 1-4 p.m. **Activity Center Upper Hall East**

St. Clare's also meets during the week. For more information, contact Amanda DeViney at 713-830-4110 or adeviney@smec.org.



st.claresneedlepoint



St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild



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



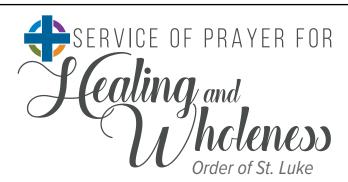
# To register, visit bit.ly/2024passioncamp

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



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, May 1 | 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.



A Bible Study for Any Woman Seeking God's Truth

# SHARING DAY

Thursday, May 2 9:30 a.m.-noon • Bagby Parish Hall

A special day where our group members share what the year has meant to them, stories of seeing God working in their lives and how they have grown in friendships and also spiritually through studying the Word of God. We ask that you donate canned goods or blue jean pants for our outreach project.











Contact: Liz Gallien • Igallien@smec.org • 713-830-4139



# **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









TEXT
Text SMEC 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. David Leonard
Vestry Representative
Morning



**Mr. Will Hedges**Vestry Representative
Evening

# **OUR CLERGY**

# $\ \, \textbf{Jesus, The Christ} \\$

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. Elizabeth A. Miller** Pastoral Assistant emiller@smec.org



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



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



The Rev. Gillian (Gill) B. Keyworth Deacon gkeyworth@smec.org

# WE INVITE YOU TO KEEP THIS BOOKLET FOR REFERENCE.

