FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024



OUR MISSION

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



ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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

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

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

June J. Luna, Jr. +

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

Prayers Before Worship

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

NOTICES

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

St. Martin's asks that anyone coming into a worship service not bring oversized or large backpacks. *indicates when latecomers may be seated so as not to disturb other worshipers

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

APRIL 28

Adults

8+ with the Rev. Lisa Neilson

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. Lisa Neilson 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-I-7 Students

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

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

Children's Ministry

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

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

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

Music Ministry

Young Singers 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 29-MAY 4

Adults

Saintly Stitchers

Monday, April 29 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 30 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, May 1 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, May 1 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, May 1 11 a.m.-noon | The Church

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

St. Martin's 20s & 30s

Wednesday, May 1 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, May 2 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Choir Rehearsal Hall

Sing a variety of traditional music in service to the Lord and our congregation. For more information, contact Dr. David Henning at 713-985-3820 or dhenning@smec.org.

Men

Men of St. Martin's Thursday, May 2 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, May 2 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 30 – Evening Group | 6:30-8 p.m. | Children's Life Center and via Zoom Thursday, May 2 – 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, May 1 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-I-7 Students

Life Groups

Wednesday, May 1 6-8 p.m. | Student Life Center

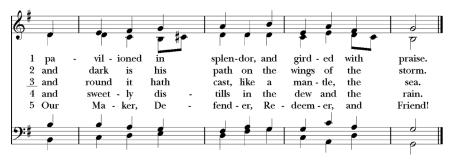
Students in grades 6-12 connect with their peers for fun activities and great discussions about faith and life. Please bring \$5 to cover the cost of dinner. For more information, contact the Rev. John Sundara at 713-985-3842 or jsundara@smec.org.

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.

*HYMN 388 "O Worship the King" 0 1 wor - ship the King, all glo - rious а bove! 2 0 tell of his might! 0 sing of his grace! 3 The earth, with of its store won - ders un told, 4 Thv boun - ti ful care, what tongue can cite? re 5 Frail chil - dren frail, of dust, and fee ble as **9**: 0 grate - ful 1 lv sing his power and his love! whose 2 Whose robe the light, is can - o py space. 3 Al might - y, thy hath found - ed of old, power 4 It breathes in the air: it shines in the light; $\mathbf{5}$ in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail; 0 Our shield 1 and de fend - er, the An - cient Days, _ of 2 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form, 3 hath stab - lished it fast bv a change - less de cree, hills, 4 it streams from the it de scends the plain, to $\mathbf{5}$ thy mer - cies, how ten - der! how firm the end! to



Words: Robert Grant (1779-1838); Music: Hanover, att. William Croft (1678-1727).

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 God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSON1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

All stand.

HYMN 482 (vs. 1-2)..... "Lord of All Hopefulness"

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Words: Jan Struther (1901–1953); Music: Slane, Irish ballad melody; adapt. The Church Hymnary, 1927; harm. Hymnal 1982; Copyright: Words: By permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-705539.

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

THE GOSPELJohn 15:1-12, NIV

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

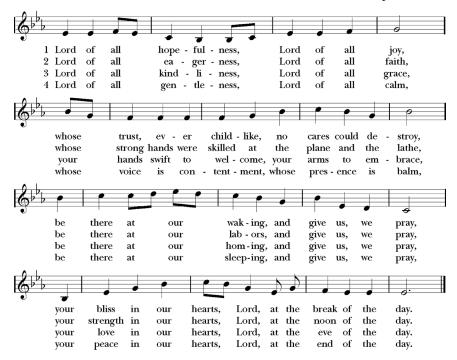
"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

People:	Praise be to thee, O Christ.
Deacon:	The Gospel of the Lord.

The remaining readings for the day are on pages 28-29.

HYMN 482 (vs. 3-4)..... "Lord of All Hopefulness"



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Please be seated.

THE SERMON

"First of Two Farewell Invitations: Remain in Jesus" The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

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 Church of Bangladesh; 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.

The 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

The 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.

The Celebrant stands and says

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

THE PEACE (stand)

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Please be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 34 for upcoming events.

THE OFFERTORY

Rise, heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing His praise, without delays, who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise with Him may'st rise: that, as His death calcined thee to dust, His life may make thee gold, and much more, just. Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part with all thy art. The cross taught all wood to resound His name who bore the same. His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key is best to celebrate this most high day. Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song please and long: Or since all music is but three parts vied, and multiplied; O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part, and make up our defects with His sweet art.

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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.

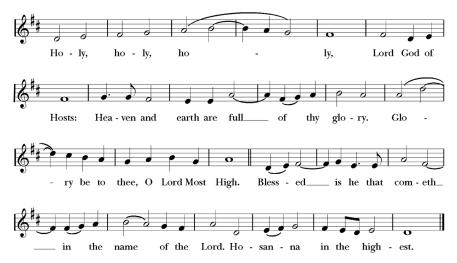
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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

The 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.

FRACTION ANTHEM Celtic Alleluia



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

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.

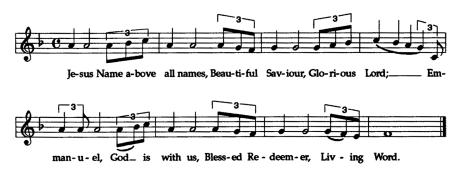
All Christians who have been baptized with water and in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and are permitted to receive Holy Communion in their own church are welcome to do so on this occasion. If you do not wish to receive one or both Elements, cross your arms over your chest and the Clergy will give you a blessing. Please tell the Clergy administering Communion if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.

Philip Wilby

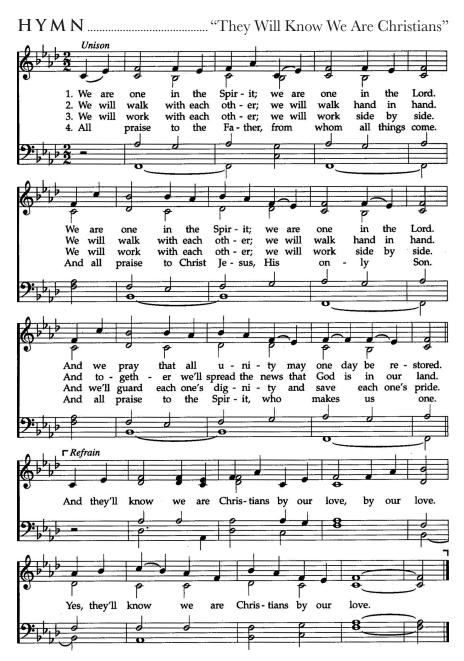
If ye love Me, keep My commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever. Even the Spirit of Truth. And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

Text: John 14: 15-18. © Banks Music Publications 1992.

HYMN"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

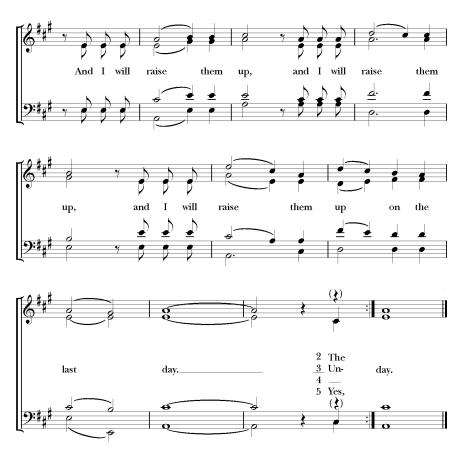


Text and Music: Nada Hearn; Copyright © 1974, 1978 Scripture in Song, ARR. UBP. CCLI #805314.



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

HYMN 335"I Am the Bread of Life" 2### ÷ ≱ bread of 1 Ι am the life;____ they who 2 (The) Bread that_ Ι will give____ is my <u>3</u>(Un-) less_ you eat____ of the rec - tion, 4 I am the re sur 5 (Yes,) Lord, we be lieve____ that_ 0 1 come to me shall not_ hun - ger; they who be 2 Flesh life of the world,____ they who for the and 3 Flesh of the Son of_ Man___ and_ 4 Ι_ am the__ life.____ They who be $\mathbf{5}$ the___ Christ,___ the_ you. are d٠ lieve in me shall 1 not thirst. No one can come to 2 bread, shall___ eat_ of this thev live for 3 drink_ of his Blood, you shall not have life with 4 lieve_ in me, e ven____ if they 5Son of God who. has 1 me___ un less the____ Fa - ther draw them. 2 they shall___ live for ev - er. ev - er. _3 shall not have life with in you. in you. you 4 die,_ they shall___ live for ev er. 5 come____ in to___ the_ world.____



Words: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927), adapt. from John 6; Music: *IAm the Bread of Life*, Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928); Copyright: Words: Copyright © 1971 G.I.A. Publications, Inc., Chicago. Music: © 1970, 1975, Celebration. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-705539.

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

Celebrant and People

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

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.

HYMN 390 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Lord, 1 Praise to the might - y, King the Al the of cre 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly 3 Praise to the Lord. who doth thy way de pros - per and 4 Praise to the Lord! 0 let all that is in me a 0. Ŧ. 0 tion; my soul, praise him, for he is thy а ea - gle-wings, reign eth: safe - ly borne as on his fend thee: sure - ly his good - ness \mathbf{and} mer - cy shall dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with o' 0 o. 0. ø. health and sal - va tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y, saints he sus - tain eth. Hast thou not ĥow all thou seen ev - er at - tend thee; pon-der a new what the Al -prais - es be - fore him! Let the а men sound from his d. o. 0. 0 0. Ŧ. or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o tion. ra eth? need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee. peo - ple a gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him. 0 P

Words: Joachim Neander (1650–1680); tr. Hymnal 1940, alt.; Music: Lobe den Herren, melody from Erneuerten Gesangbuch, 1665; harm. The Chorale Book for England, 1863.

THE DISMISSAL

Georgi Mushel

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

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In memory of Barbara Sandy Patton by John Patton and family



BIRTHS

Jan. 24	Matthew Brody Bock
	Son of Glyn and Matt Bock
	Grandson of Fran and Bill Tower

Jan. 31	Hunter Chambers Mizell
	Son of Mary Alex and Carter Mizell
	Grandson of Chris and Mike Mizell

April 2 Reed Stephen McLean Son of Taylor and David McLean Grandson of Anna and Scott McLean



BAPTISMS

- April 20 William Andrew Darby Wake William Francis Tina Louise English
- April 21 Isla Scott Campbell

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



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

THE FIRST LESSONActs 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

READINGS FOR THE DAY

Τŀ	H E P S A L M Psalm 22:24-30
24	My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
	I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
25	The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
	and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
	"May your heart live for ever!"
26	All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, $*$
	and all the families of the nations bow before him.
27	For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
	he rules over the nations.
28	To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
	all who go down to the dust fall before him.
29	My soul shall live for him;
	my descendants shall serve him; *
	they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.
30	They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
	the saving deeds that he has done.

SERMON NOTES

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

SERMON NOTES

"He drew a circle that shut me out – Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But love and I had the wit to win: We drew a circle and took him In!"

Edwin Markham, d. 1940

"A procession of angels passes before each person, and the heralds go before them, saying, "Make way for the image of God!"

Rabbi Joshua ben Levi, Third Century

"Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"... "I will, with God's help."

"The Book of Common Prayer," p. 305

"There is love whose measure is that of an umbrella. There is love whose inclusiveness is that of a great marquee. And there is love whose comprehension is that of the immeasurable sky. The aim of the New Testament is the conversion of the umbrella into a tent and the merging of the tent into the glorious canopy of the all-enfolding heavens ... Push back the walls of family love until they include the neighbor; again push back the walls until they include the stranger; again push back the walls until they comprehend the foe."

The Rev. John Henry Jowett, d. 1923

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:

Bobbie Adams Carolvn Alban **Buck Anderson** Scotty Arnoldy Edith Avery Shelly Bain Beth Beathard Cory Blackman Cathy Blackwell John Boysen Kenny Brown Matthews Brown Harry Burrow John Canon Hallie Cooley Almeria Cottingham Sam Cruse James Cunningham Gail Davis Bobby de Sosa Linda de Sosa Ross Dunn Becca Earhart Stacey and John Elliott Mary Finucane Charles Flores Will Fogle Susan Folk Catherine Gonzales Nancy Gore Shea Guinn Cissy Gully Bette Haidusek Ann Halverson Jean Hatton Mollie Hill Marguerite Hillgers Cecilia Illeman Marilyn Ingham

Thelma Isenhart Christine Jean Mary and Jim Jennings John Justice Sandra "Sandy" Justice Mary Anne Kannard Dick Kildav Marjorie Krajian Reggie Lang Bruce Michael Lee Nancy Liles Nicole Holford Lockney Amanda Lodge Ryan Logan Madelyn Markham Ronnie Martin Janet McDaniel Barbara McMahon Frances Melicks Len Menefee Stuart Nixon Ann Noel Deborah Oliver Bob Paddock Jim Paddock Judy Peach Joseph Powell Ophelia Pujol Barbara Quackenbush Phyllis Reinhardt Julia Richards Monica Rivera John Davis Roady Rhet Rollins Consuelo Saldana Helen and Jim Shaffer Caroline Shanahan Clif Shoemake Bob Spencer

Trish St. Jean Martin Jim and Jan Stokes Hillary Stonger Paul Therrien Annie Troung Christine Troung Mary Watters Richard "Rit" Webb Stephen Wedemeyer Ann Winters Stacy Wood Eric Zoerb Atticus Elizabeth and Scott Henry Iulie Laura Lvnne Mary Jane Roger Sarah Stuart

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

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

Please be advised that each year the week after Veterans Day, this list will be completely redone. To add or remove someone on the Military Service Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vrivera@smec.org.

Say Farewell to

aura

MARTIN'S

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

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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. • Parish Life Center • "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



bit.ly/levensonbooks



ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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.







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.

o 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

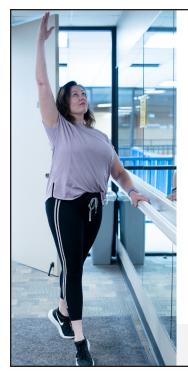


To register, visit **bit.ly/2024passioncamp** Total cost: \$800 • Deadline to register: April 30

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



ACTIVITY CENTER BODY WEIGHT BLAST

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

Join Angela for a Bodyweight Blast! This class helps to improve strength, endurance, coordination, balance and flexibility using just your body weight! Everyone is welcome to join this free class! **Open to ALL levels.**

MOST CLASSES ARE FREE!

For more information, visit bit.ly/smecactivitycenter.

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

ST. MARTIN'S OUTREACH MINISTRIES

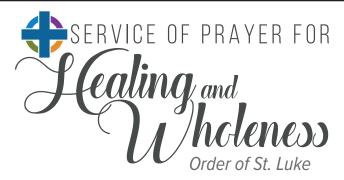


DePelchin Tour

Tuesday, April 30 | 10:30-11:30 a.m. 4950 Memorial Dr.

Tour DePelchin Children's Center and learn all about their programs and how they help the community beyond the Angel Tree Holiday Project.

Contact Tracee Tindol at outreach@smec.org or 713-985-3811 to sign up.



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.



CHRISTIAN LIFE STUDY

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



Saturdays • 9 a.m.-1 p.m. • Rain or Shine Corner of Sage and Woodway sterlingsmarket.org

Discover unique treasures and fresh foods from local vendors and farmers!

Proceeds benefit St. Martin's Outreach Ministries in our community.

Contact: Justin Jacobson Avery // info@sterlingsmarket.org • 713-985-3838

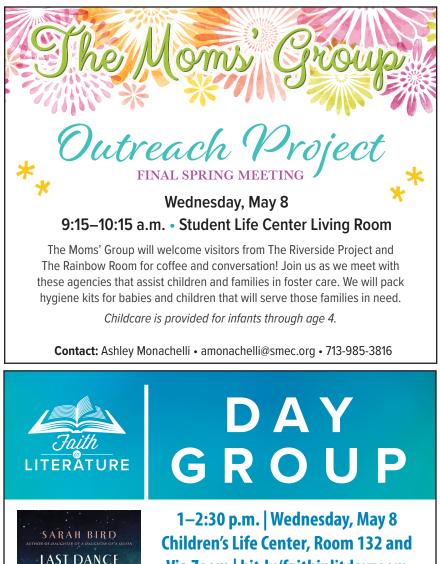


SATURDAY, MAY 4 • 10 A.M. CHILDREN'S LIFE CENTER

SEASON-END REFLECTION

The year will end with Holy Eucharist and reflections.

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





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 Last Dance on the Starlight Pier" by Sarah Bird.

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

ON THE

PIER



SUNDAY, MAY 19

WHITSUNDAY

Celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles (Acts 2:1). Parishioners are encouraged to wear red, which signifies the power of the Holy Spirit represented by tongues of flames resting upon the Apostles.

Red velvet cupcakes, honoring the birth of the Church, will be served in the breezeways after every morning service.

PUBLIC BAPTISMS

At the 11:15 a.m. service in The Church Pentecost is a particularly auspicious day to be baptized. Those interested in being baptized at St. Martin's are encouraged to register for the May 11 Baptism Instruction Class at **bit.ly/smecbaptism**.

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



Bible Study Last Meeting before Summer

Featuring Guest Speaker the Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson

MAY 16 • 7 A.M. BAGBY PARISH HALL



Dr. Jackson will conclude the last meeting before Summer, with Matthew 28.

Join us! Breakfast is available for \$8 at St. Martin's Café starting at 6:45 a.m.

For more information, contact Juli Browning at jbrowning@smec.org or 713-985-3845.





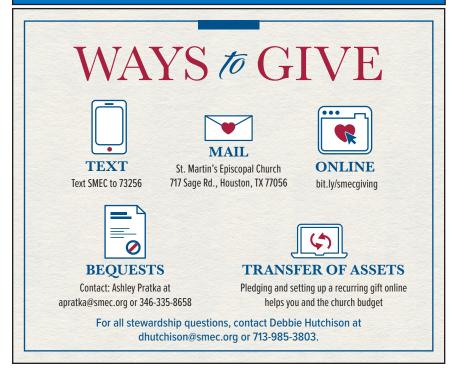
Open House

Thursday, May 9th @ 5 PM - 6 PM Available In-Person Only

Register at bit.ly/hhci-open-house

Texas is ranked 50th in the nation for mental health resources. Learn what HHCl is doing to get us to #1.

For more information, contact Lauren Kimble at lkimble@hhci.org or 713-830-4141



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



Mr. Ryan LaRue Vestry Representative Morning

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.



The Hon. Edith Jones Vestry Representative Evening

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ

The Head of This Church



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Miller Pastoral Assistant emiller@smec.org



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



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

WE INVITE YOU TO Keep this booklet For reference.

717 Sage Road Houston, TX 77056 713-621-3040

STMARTINSEPISCOPAL.ORG