

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2022



OUR MISSION

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



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

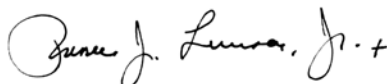
FROM THE RECTOR

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

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

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

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



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

Prayers Before Worship

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

NOTICES

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

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

DECEMBER 18

Adults

8+ with the Rev. John Sundara

8:55-9:25 a.m. | Chapel Reception Hall

This class is a Clergy-led coffee and discussion following the 8 a.m. service. Each class focuses on one of the lectionary readings for the day.



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

Welcoming Mary: Learning from Jesus' Mother in Scripture

10:15-11 a.m. | Bagby Parish Hall

This class features a series of Biblical, theological and historical topics that engage the mind and heart in worship of God and living a life of faith.



Seekers with the Rev. Nick Dyke

10:15-11 a.m. | Activity Center, Aerobics Room

This class is for more senior parishioners for fellowship and lectionary-based Bible study.



*For more information about Adult Christian Education,
email Amanda DeViney at adeviney@stmartinsepiscopal.org.*

7-1-7 Students

Episcopal Youth Community

10:15-11 a.m. | Student Life Center

Grades 6-12 are welcome to join Student Ministries for coffee, lemonade, donuts and conversation about the Scriptures shared in worship.



*For more information about 7-1-7 Students
email Student Ministries at students@stmartinsepiscopal.org.*

Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School

10:15-11 a.m. | Children's Life Center

We have engaging lessons, curriculum and content for both preschool and elementary school. Childcare is available during all morning services for infants through four-year-olds.



*For more information about Children's Ministry
email Ashley Monachelli at amonachelli@stmartinsepiscopal.org.*

Music Ministry

Young Singers of St. Martin's

8:15 a.m. | Rehearsal in Children's Life Center

9:15 a.m. | Family Table service in Parish Life Center

Young Singers of St. Martin's, for grades 1-12, make joyful and beautiful music while affording them a special place in the worship services at St. Martin's.



*For more information about Young Singers of St. Martin's
email yssm@stmartinsepiscopal.org.*

DECEMBER 19-24

Adults

Saintly Stitchers

Monday, Dec. 19

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. Lisa Neilson at lnelson@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, Dec. 20

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. Lisa Neilson at lnelson@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Parish Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec. 22

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 dhenning@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

St. Martin's Campus will close Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 26-27, in observance of the Christmas holiday, and close at noon Friday, Dec. 30 through Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of the New Year holiday.

HOLY EUCHARIST

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

VOLUNTARY “Noel in G”

Claude d’Aquin

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*HYMN 56 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.; Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811–1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937); Public Domain.

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

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People: His mercy endureth for ever.

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.**

KYRIE

(8 a.m.)

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

(9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.)



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

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

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSON Romans 1:1-7

The 6 p.m. Lesson is on page 37.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

HYMN 68 (vs. 1-2) “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660–1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823–1907), alt. Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865.

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

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

THE GOSPELMatthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

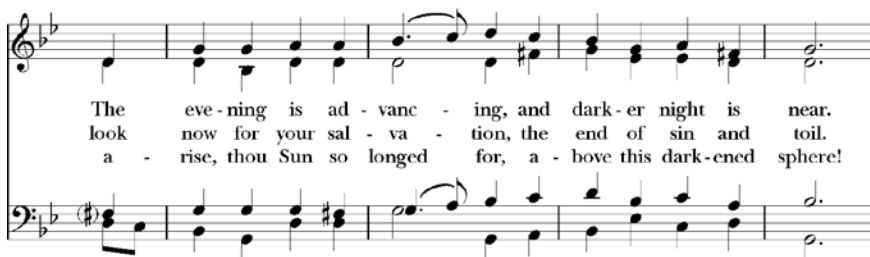
People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The remaining lectionary for the day is on page 37.

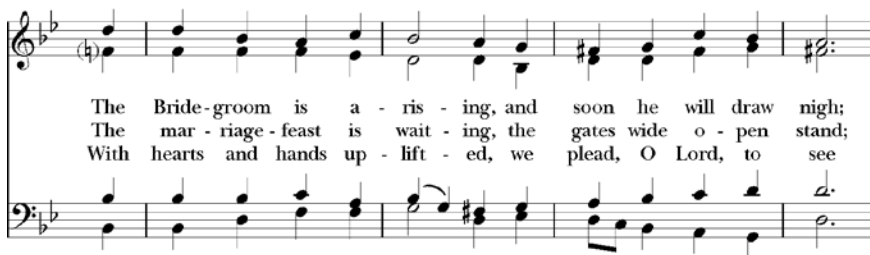
HYMN 68 (vs. 3)..... “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”



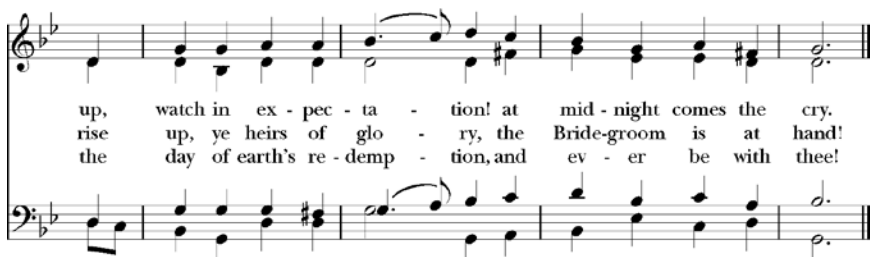
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 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



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Please be seated.

THE SERMON*"May You Have a 'Mary' Christmas"*
The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.
morning services

THE SERMON*The Rev. Dr. Suse E. McBay, Ph.D.*
evening service

THE NICENE CREED

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) (responsively)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess thy Name may
be united in thy truth, live together in thy love, and reveal
thy glory to the world.

Silence

Lord, in thy mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the
ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another
and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in thy mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as thy own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to thy honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in thy mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, especially __, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in thy mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those in the hospital __; and give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of thy salvation.

Silence

Lord, in thy mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to thy mercy all who have died, that thy will for them may be fulfilled, especially __; and we give thanks for their lives and pray for their loved ones left behind.

Silence

Lord, in thy mercy

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; for Michael our Presiding Bishop; for Andy, Jeff, Kai, Hector and Scott, our diocesan bishops; for the clergy of this Parish; in the Anglican Cycle of prayer, for the Anglican Church of Korea; for all persecuted Christians; for Joe, our President, Greg, our Governor, Sylvester, our Mayor, and the Congress and the Courts; for all who serve in our armed forces and their families; for an end to war and conflict; for all the blessings of this life, especially those remembered today with Altar flowers,___.

I invite your own prayers and intercessions.

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

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Minister says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

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.

Priest 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.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Witness to Dignity

*The Life and Faith of
George H.W. and Barbara Bush*

***Give a Special St. Martin's
Gift this Christmas***

Just published, this book offers a personal insight into the life and faith of St. Martin's Parishioners President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush by our Rector, Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

Available at St. Martin's Gift Shoppe or anywhere you purchase Christian books.





YOUNG
SINGERS
OF ST. MARTIN'S

Christmas Story in Song

Sunday, Dec. 18

9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

Hear the Young Singers of St. Martin's as they present a Christmas Program of Lessons and Carols. Sing Along to some of your favorite traditional carols and hear the telling of the Christmas Story.



Hosts Seafarers' Outreach Project

SHOEBOX WRAPPING PARTY



SUNDAY, DEC. 18

10:15 A.M.

CHILDREN'S LIFE CENTER

Children will fill empty shoeboxes with necessities and wrap them with colorful paper for the Houston International Seafarers Center, which serves the many seafarers who pass through the Port of Houston.



DECEMBER HOURS

Sundays

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Monday – Thursday

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed Dec. 19 – Jan. 9

Christmas Sales Begins December 11!

Come in and find the perfect Christmas gift! All Christmas items on sale through Dec. 18.



Activity Center

HOLIDAY CLOSURE FOR CLASSES

Monday, Dec. 19 through
Monday, Jan. 2, 2023

The Activity Center will not offer classes from Dec. 19 through Jan. 2 in observance of Christmas and New Year's holidays.

For more information about the extended Activity Center calendar, visit bit.ly/smecactivitycenter

GIVE BLOOD

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

Blood Drive

Monday, Dec. 19

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Student Life Center

Appointments are required to donate.
Please go online to schedule at bit.ly/smecblooddrive.

EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.



**Gulf Coast Regional
Blood Center**

Year-End Contributions to St. Martin's Episcopal Church



The Internal Revenue Service requires that, in order to be tax deductible in 2022, cash, check or credit card contributions to St. Martin's Episcopal Church must be received by the Church or postmarked by the United States Postal Service no later than Friday, Dec. 30, 2022; this includes any payments to your 2022 pledge, prepayment of your 2023 pledge and payment of your Building for the Ages pledge. The Finance staff is required to check the postal cancellation dates on all receipts in early January to ensure our legal compliance to this rule.

For more information, contact Debbie Hutchison at
dhutchison@stmartinsepiscopal.org or 713-985-3803



Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, Dec. 24

The Family Service | 11 a.m. • *The Church*

Music and Nativity Liturgy. Designed for families with younger children. No Eucharist.

Traditional Services | 1, 3:30, 6 and 8:30 p.m. • *The Church*

Holy Eucharist; festive Christmas music by the Parish Choir, accompanied by the *Gloria Dei* Organ with brass and timpani.

Note: The 11 a.m., 3:30, 6 and 8:30 p.m. worship services will be livestreamed on Facebook and Youtube.

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

Come gather for the Riverway's Christmas Eve service with Holy Eucharist. Enjoy contemporary music, fellowship and more.

Note: The service will be livestreamed on Riverway's Facebook page.

Christmas Day Service

Sunday, Dec. 25 • 11 a.m. • *The Church*

Celebrate our Lord's birth. Holy Eucharist; traditional service with hymns, anthems and the Parish Choir.

New Year's Day Services

Sunday, Jan. 1

Traditional Service with Holy Eucharist

8, 9, and 11:15 a.m. • *The Church*

Note: The 6 p.m. traditional service in The Church will not be offered on Jan. 1.

Family Table

9:15 a.m. • *Parish Life Center*

Riverway Contemporary Service with Holy Eucharist

11:15 a.m. • *Parish Life Center*

Childcare services will be available for infants through pre-K at all services.



ST. MARTIN'S
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES



Sole Hope

Shoe-Cutting at Home January 2023 Project Sign-up Required at bit.ly/solehopeathome

Cut and prepare fabric uppers from old denim for Sole Hope's Ugandan cobblers to handcraft shoes for vulnerable kids. No skills required and all supplies are provided. Kits are available for pick-up by sign-up on Mondays from the Front Reception Desk and should be returned to the same location by 3 p.m. Friday. **Sign up at bit.ly/solehopeathome is required.**

Contact worldmissions@stmartinsepiscopal.org for more information.



SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR *Healing and Wholeness*



St. Martin's International 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, Jan. 4 | 5 p.m.
Parish Life Center or via Zoom
bit.ly/oslservice

For more information, please contact Amanda DeViney
at adeviney@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

*The
Order
of the
Daughters
of the King*



SATURDAY, JAN. 7 | 10 A.M.
CHILDREN'S LIFE CENTER

Small Group Activity

DOK Vice President Suzanne Miller will lead the group in an activity using high-quality color images to invite personal reflection and small group dialogue about prayer and its significance in our daily lives.

For more information, please contact Tracee Tindol at tmartin@smartinsepiscopal.org.

ALL - ADULT SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JAN. 8

10:15 – 11 a.m.

Bagby Parish Hall

Hear more about former Secretary Baker's service under three U.S. Presidents and Jean Becker, who covered the 1988 presidential election for USA Today before going to work in the Bush White House. Jean Becker will engage James Baker in a thoughtful conversation that will touch on his faith, career and relationship with the Bushes.



**The Honorable
James A. Baker, III**
61st Secretary of State



Jean Becker
Former Chief of Staff for
President George H.W. Bush



FEAST OF LIGHTS

Acolyte Celebration

SUNDAY, JAN. 8

ACOLYTE CELEBRATION
4 P.M. • BAGBY PARISH HALL

FEAST OF LIGHTS
6 P.M. • THE CHURCH

Acolytes and their families are invited to participate in the Feast of Lights service, a beautiful candlelight service following the celebration that will recognize the Acolytes' contribution to enhancing services to help glorify God.

To register for the Acolyte Dinner, please visit bit.ly/acolytedinner

A Change of Heart



Women are invited to this study group on the mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationship. If yours is difficult, we can offer hope; if yours is great, we can learn from you.

Wednesdays

**Jan. 11–March 1 • 10:30 a.m. – noon or 1–2:30 p.m.
Student Life Center, Room 201**

Each class is limited to the first 20 who register.

To sign up or for more information, contact Graham Neuhaus at geneuhaus@aol.com.

"A Change of Heart" is available for purchase in St. Martin's Gift Shoppe.
Session one should be completed for the first meeting.

A VERY SPECIAL LENTEN RETREAT:

Icon Writing with Teresa Harrison



Monday – Thursday, March 20 – 23
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, March 24
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The ancient technique of icon writing inspires prayerful meditation, both while creating the art and reflecting on the finished piece. This four-day retreat includes Eucharist, chant, prayer, silence and lively conversation. Beginners and experienced iconographers are welcome!

Reserve your space at bit.ly/iconography2023

TRADITIONAL SERVICES IN THE CHURCH

SERVE IN WORSHIP



ACOLYTE



**GREETER AND
WELCOME MINISTRY**



LYDIA'S GUILD

There are many wonderful opportunities at St. Martin's to use your gifts and help others connect with God. If you are interested in serving in one of our worship ministries or have any questions, please contact us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Email worshipcoordinators@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Opening Doors to Hope

2022 End-of-Year Campaign



HHCI Client Testimonial



"I have witnessed *LIGHT* shining in these therapy sessions, and I am encouraged to bring that *LIGHT* back out into the world."

At the Hope and Healing Center & Institute, we are *Opening Doors to Hope* for those living with mental health issues and addiction.

To give to our *Opening Doors to Hope* campaign and make a difference in the lives of those in your community, visit
hopeandhealingcenter.org/GIVE

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

General Questions

Contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040.

Prayer Requests

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

After Hours Emergencies

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

Death Notifications and Funerals

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

All-In

for STEWARDSHIP

TIME ■ TALENT ■ TREASURE

2023 Stewardship is here! Please join us and prayerfully consider a pledge and how you will serve St. Martin's in the coming year. We are counting on our Parish Family to be All-In just as our founders were 70 years ago.



Please scan this QR code or visit
bit.ly/smec2023stewardship
to make your pledge online.

Questions? Contact Ashley Pratkan, Director of Development,
at apratka@stmartinsepiscopal.org or 346-335-8658.

WAYS TO GIVE



TEXT

Text SMEC to
73256



MAIL

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



ONLINE

bit.ly/smecgiving



BEQUESTS

Contact: Director of Parish
Stewardship, Ashley Pratkan at
apratka@stmartinsepiscopal.org
or 346-335-8658



TRANSFER OF ASSETS

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

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THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM “Magnificat in G”
Charles Stanford

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and Holy is His Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Text: Luke 1:46-55. Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924). © 2005 by the Choral Public Domain Library. Used by permission.

AT THE PRESENTATION

(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 *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637–1711); Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?–1561?).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*stand*)

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.**

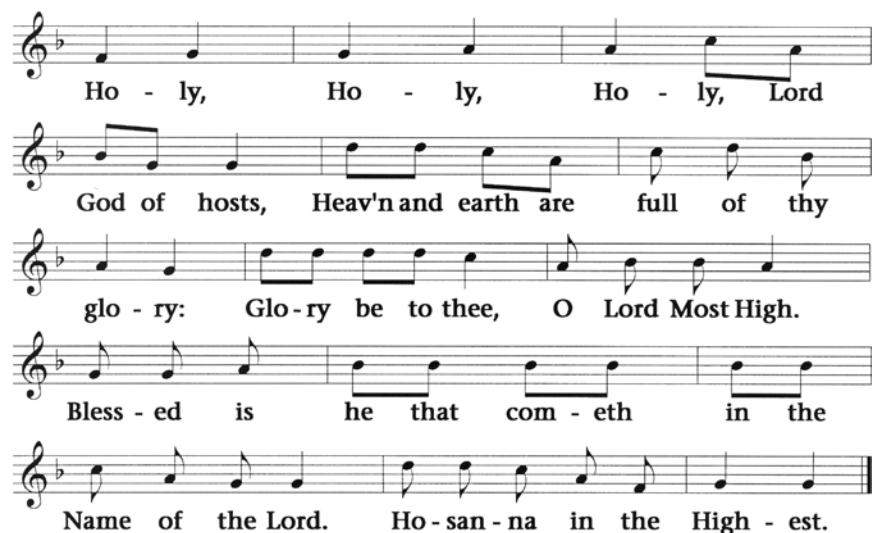
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

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



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

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

The Celebrant continues (kneel)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People and Celebrant

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.

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

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

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

Then may be said

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

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

Distribution of the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. Please tell the priest administering Communion if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.

ANTHEM “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came
a flow’ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent
was the night. Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, this Rose that I have in
mind. With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother so sweet
and so kind. To show God’s love aright, she bore to men a
Savior. When half-spent was the night

Text: Anonymous. Music: M. Praetorius (1571-1621).

HYMN “Soon and Very Soon”

1. Soon and ver - ry soon— we are goin' to see the King—
 2. No more cry - in' there— we are goin' to see the King,
 3. No more dy - in' there— we are goin' to see the King,
 4. Soon and ver - y soon— we are goin' to see the King,

Soon and ver - y soon— we are goin' to see the King,
 No more cry - in' there— we are goin' to see the King,
 No more dy - in' there— we are goin' to see the King,
 Soon and ver - y soon— we are goin' to see the King,

Soon and ve - ry soon— we are goin' to see the King,
 No more cry - in' there— we are goin' to see the King,
 No more dy - in' there— we are goin' to see the King,
 Soon and ve - ry soon— we are goin' to see the King, Halle-

lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King! — Hal - le -

lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

HYMN 67 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near; call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611–1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878), alt.; Music: *Psalm* 42, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514–1572); harm. *Hymnal* 1982.

HYMN "Jesus, Remember Me"



Tune: Jacques Berthier, (1923-1994); Words: Luke 23:42; Music: From the Taizé Community; Copyright © 1981 by Les Presses de Taizé (France). Used by permission of G.I.A. Publications, Inc., Chicago, exclusive agent. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-705539.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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.

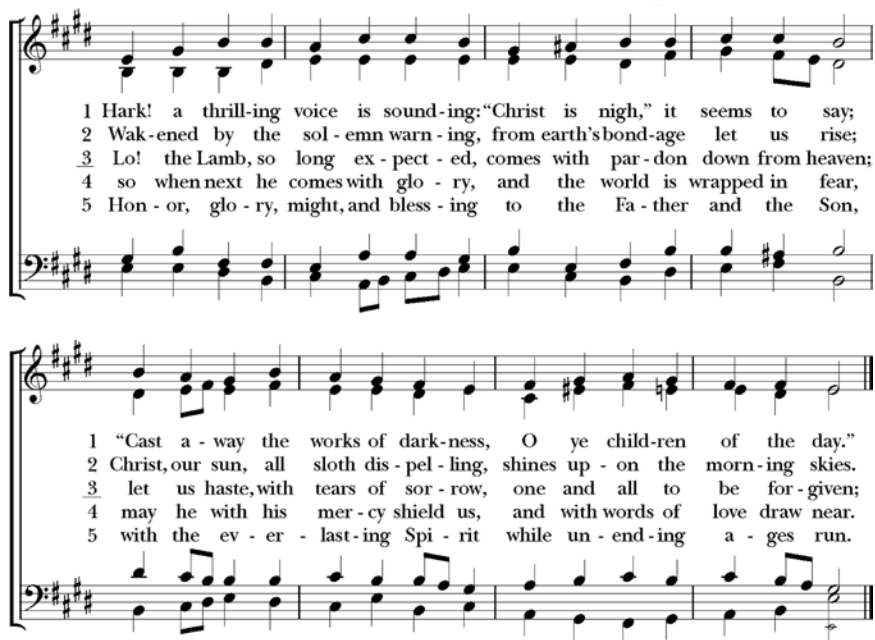
At 9 and 11:15 a.m., after the Post-Communion Prayer, members of the Shepherd's Guild may come forward. The priest or deacon gives the Sacrament to the Eucharistic visitors, saying

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 BLESSING

All stand.

HYMN 59“Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond-age let us rise;
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrappd in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 “Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day.”
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for-given;
 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.; Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823–1889).

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In memory of Margaret and Jim Hutton, on the anniversary of
their birthdays

by their children and grandchildren

In memory of Robert Malinak

by Susie Bace and Melissa and John Bace



SYMPATHY

Nov. 29 Robert Justin Malinak

Dec. 9 Caroline Hoang Neuhaus

To mark a special occasion with an altar flower dedication,
visit bit.ly/smecaltarflowers or contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam
at 713-830-4146.

SERMON NOTES

OTHER READING FOR THE DAY

THE OLD TESTAMENTIsaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

THE PSALMPsalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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:

Bobbie Adams	Sherman Lasker	Carlotta Thomas
Carolyn Alban	Stan Leong	Millie Tonn
Harvey and Katie Altmann	McKenna Letsos	Jane Touchstone
Patsy Angel	Shawn Levenson	Sue Uthe
Shelly Bain	Nancy Liles	Tim VanAntwerp
Anne Berry	Ryan Logan	Randy Vander Naillen
Cory Blackman	Marie Lord	Mae Joyce and Grant Wagner
Dianne Brock	Greg Martin	Janice Waits Murphy
Don Cheatham	Pat Marymee	Roger Williams
Higdon Compton, Jr.	Janet McDaniel	Eric Zoerb
Beth Costa	Patricia McDonald	Angela
Gail Davis	Christine Nguyen	Anne
Mac Davis	Nwora Onwuzulu	Barbara
Sue Davis	Jim Paddock	Betsey
Tommy W. Davis	Russell Pae	Dean
Bobby deSosa	Jimmy Prentice	Elizabeth
Ross Dunn	Michael Reade	Eric and Family
Kiersten Dyke	Ted Reed	Henry
Jim Easterling	Susan Rovello	Jana
Stacey and John Elliott	Baker Rudolph	Landry
Mayfield Family	David Samuelson	Laura
Charles Flores	Molly Scarbrough	Leslie
Brad Gallion	Helen and Jim Shaffer	Marilyn
Catherine Gonzales	Caroline Shanahan	Mary Jane
Nancy Gore	Megan Sharkey	Naomi
Shea Guinn	Clif Shoemake	Willie
Connie Haney	Ryan Smith	
Susie C. Hatfield	William and Betsy Smith	
Mollie Hill	Mark Solomons	
Jeff Holden	Bob Spencer	
Nicole Jabbari	Jim and Jan Stokes	
Ronnie Jacobe, Jr.	James Swann	
Lynda Jones	Nancy Talbot	
Mary Anne Kannard	Martin Taylor	
Muriel Kearby Albaral	Paul Therrien	
Paige Laird	Mimi Thobae	

Please be advised that we will be updating the Continuing Prayers list twice a year in the weeks before Easter and All Saints' Day. Names will remain on the prayer list for six months. To put someone on the Continuing Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vriviera@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Names we have received of those in the Armed Forces:

SSgt Clint Bahme	Capt. Cody Horr	Lt. Cmdr. Holly E. Pace
Lt. Col. Julian Benton	Maj. Wesley J. Hunnell	James W. Peoples
1st Lt. Benjamin Brown	Dallas Wayne Hunter	Lt. Paul Piana
Lt. Col. Chris Davis	Staton Jobe	LCMR David A. Pilko
Wesley Dodd	Lt. Cmdr. Kory Krebs	Lt. Col. Thomas C. Plant
Sgt. James Drury III	Krystal Martinez	PO1 Brian M. Powell
James Eilers	PV2 Wills Masterson	SPC Joel Rowell
Major Parker Firestone	1st Lt. Ben Matthews	Maj. Christian Schleider
Capt. Dom Flatt	Ensign Ben Morris	1st Lt. Grant Suter
1st Lt. Will Golinkin	1st Lt. Jack Mullen	1st Lt. Luke Voss
LCDR Bradley R. Hoffman	2nd Lt. Alex Mullen	

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ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

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Mrs. Diane Campbell, *Junior Warden*

Mrs. Casey Hedges, *Missions Chair*

Mr. Tommy Ford, *Treasurer*

Mr. Gib Surles, *Clerk*

Mr. Jim Hibbert, *Past Senior Warden*

Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., *Parish Stewardship Chair*

Mr. Andy Harvin, *Chancellor**

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Mr. Bob Parkey

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Mr. Jon Clarkson, *Senior Council Representative 2022-2023*

Mr. Richard Nelson, *Senior Council Representative 2022-2023*

Mrs. Janet Hoover, *Altar Guild President 2022-2023*

Mrs. Dee Frappier, *ECW President 2022-2023*

Mr. Jim McCulloch, *Men of St. Martin's President 2022-2023*

Mr. Bob Porter, *Usher Representative 2022-2023*

*Chancellor and Special Counsel are associate positions, filled at the discretion of the Rector.



Mr. Dan Meyer

*Vestry Representative
Morning*



Mrs. Elizabeth Dukes

*Vestry Representative
Evening*

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Jesus, The Christ
The Head of This Church



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