

INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED

July 7, 2024



OUR MISSION

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



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. MARTIN'S

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.

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

Prayer 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 worshippers*

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

JULY 7

Christian Education for Adults, Children's Ministry and 7-1-7 Students will not be offered today in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Please join us next Sunday, July 14, when Christian Education classes resume.

JULY 8-13

Adults

Saintly Stitchers

Monday, July 8

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

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, July 9

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

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

Blanket Ladies

Wednesday, July 10

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

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

St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild

Wednesday, July 10

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

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

St. Martin's 20s & 30s Summer Dinner Get-Togethers

Wednesday, July 10

7-8:45 p.m. | Offsite

Join a community of young adults who eat, pray, and read Scripture together. For more information, contact the Rev. Wesley Arning at 346-335-8680 or rwarning@smec.org.

Parish Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 11

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 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.

Sterling's Market

Saturday, July 13 | Rain or Shine

9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Corner of Woodway and Sage

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

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

General Questions

Contact the Reception Desk at
713-621-3040.

Prayer Requests

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

After Hours Emergencies

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

Death Notifications and Funerals

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

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“Patriotic Suite”

Charles Callahan

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

*HYMN 579“Almighty Father, Strong to Save”

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the
 2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain o'er which our traf - fic
 3 O Spi - rit, whom the Fa - ther sent to spread a - broad the
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, our peo - ple shield in

rest - less wave, who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep its
 runs a - main by moun - tain pass or val - ley low; wher -
 firm - a - ment; O Wind of hea - ven, by thy might save
 dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed li - mits keep: O hear us when we
 ev - er, Lord, thy peo - ple go, pro - tect them by thy
 all who dare the ea - gle's flight, and keep them by thy
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 guard - ing hand from ev - ery per - il on the land.
 watch - ful care from ev - ery per - il in the air.
 rise to thee glad praise from space, air, land, and sea.

Words: Sts. 1 and 4, William Whiting (1825–1878), alt.; sts. 2–3, Robert Nelson Spencer (1877–1961), alt.; Music: *Mdita*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823–1876).

NATIONAL ANTHEM *(stand)*

HYMN 720“O Say Can You See”

1 O say can you see, by the dawn's ear - ly light,
2 O thus be it ev - er, when free - men shall stand

what so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last gleam - ing,
be - tween their loved homes and the war's des - o - la - tion!

whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the per - il - ous fight,
Blest with vic - tory and peace, may the heaven - re - scued land

o'er the ram - parts we watched, were so gal - lant - ly stream - ing?
Power that hath made and pre - served us a na - tion!

And the rock - ets' red glare, the bombs burst - ing in air,
Then—con - quer we must, when our cause it is just,

gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
and this be our mot - to, "In God is our trust."

O say does that star - span - gled ban - ner yet wave
And the star - span - gled ban - ner in tri - umph shall wave

o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Words: Francis Scott Key (1779–1843); Music: *National Anthem*, source unknown, ca. 18th cent.

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.*)



Praise to the Lord, the Al - migh - ty, the King of cre -
a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for
he is thy health and sal - va - tion;
join the great throng, psal - ter - y, or - gan and
song, sound - ing in glad a - do - ra - tion.

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 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

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSONHebrews 11:8-16

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old – and Sarah herself was barren – because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

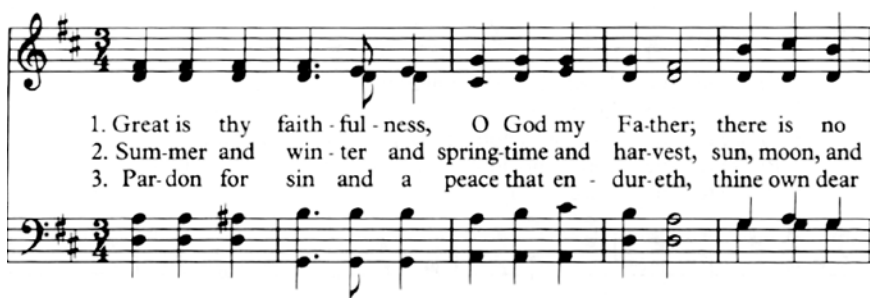
All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

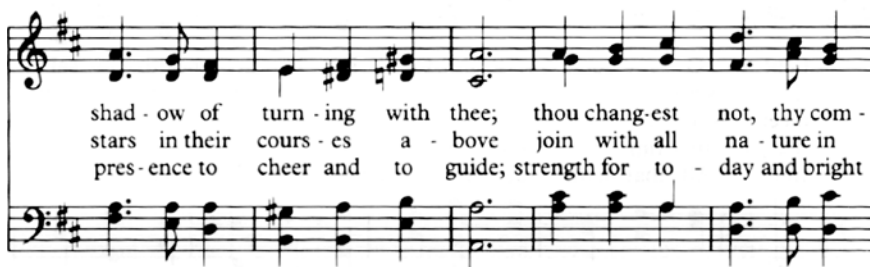
People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

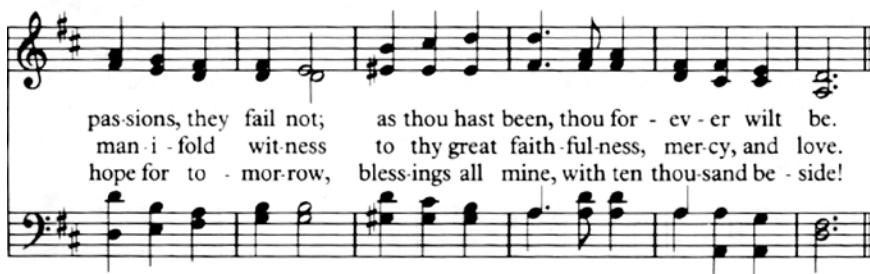
HYMN (vs. 1-2)..... "Great is Thy Faithfulness"



1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, thine own dear

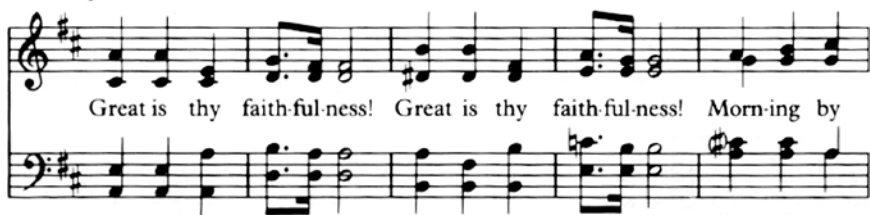


shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man-i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923 (Lam. 3:22-23); Music: William M. Runyan, 1923; © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-705539.

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 5:43-48

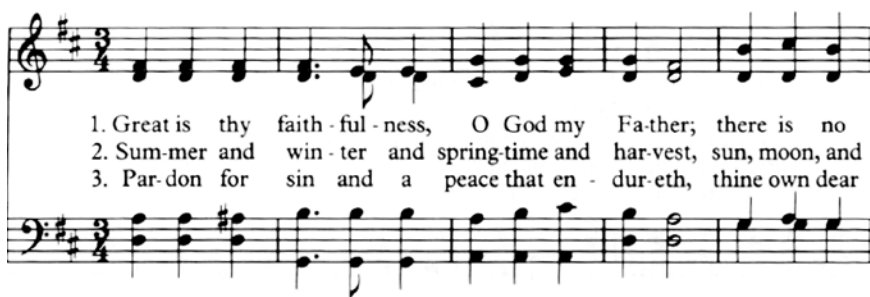
Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

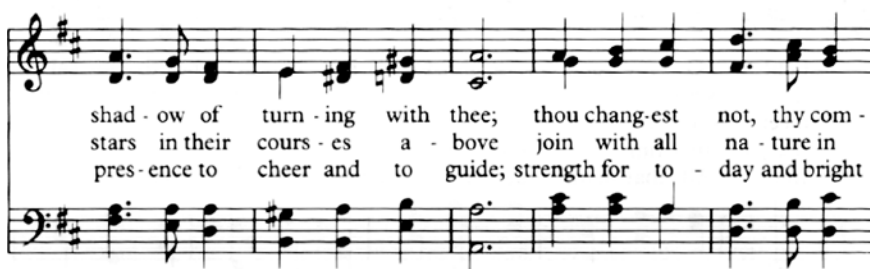
People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining readings for the day are on page 28.

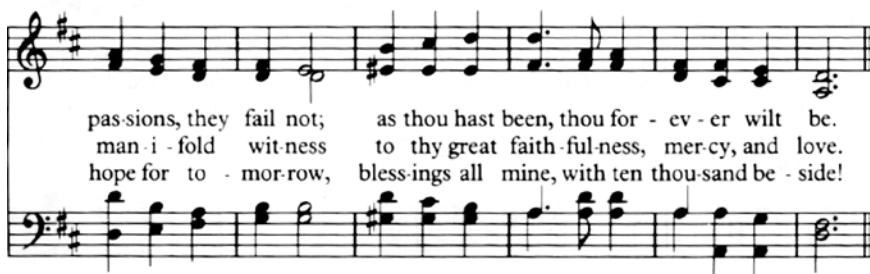
HYMN (vs. 3)..... "Great is Thy Faithfulness"



1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, thine own dear

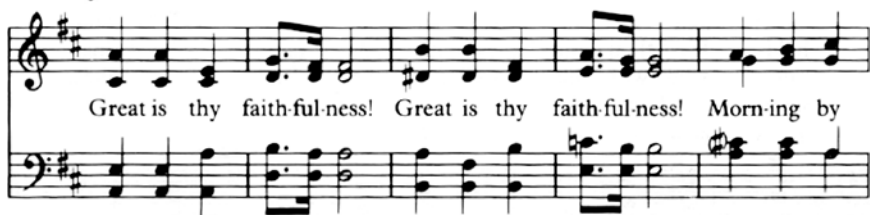


shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man-i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



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Please be seated.

THE SERMON“Great is Thy Faithfulness”
The Rev. Lisa R. Neilson

THE NICENE CREED (*stand*)

Celebrant and People

I believe in one God,

**the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

**the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;**

who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the
Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to
the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father,
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped
and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy catholic and
apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission
of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(kneel)*

Minister and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

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

That thy Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai and Hector, our bishops; the Clergy of this Parish; for our Search Committee and the fifth Rector; in the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean; 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

Grant, O God, that thy holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 29 for upcoming events.

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM “America the Beautiful”
arr. Robert Russell Bennet

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea. O beautiful for pilgrims’ feet whose stern impassioned stress a thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness! America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife. Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life. America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears. America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

Text: Katherine Lee Bates. Music: Samuel A. Ward, arranged by Robert Russell Bennett. © 1973 Lawson-Gould Music Publishers, Inc. ARR.

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 *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

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.

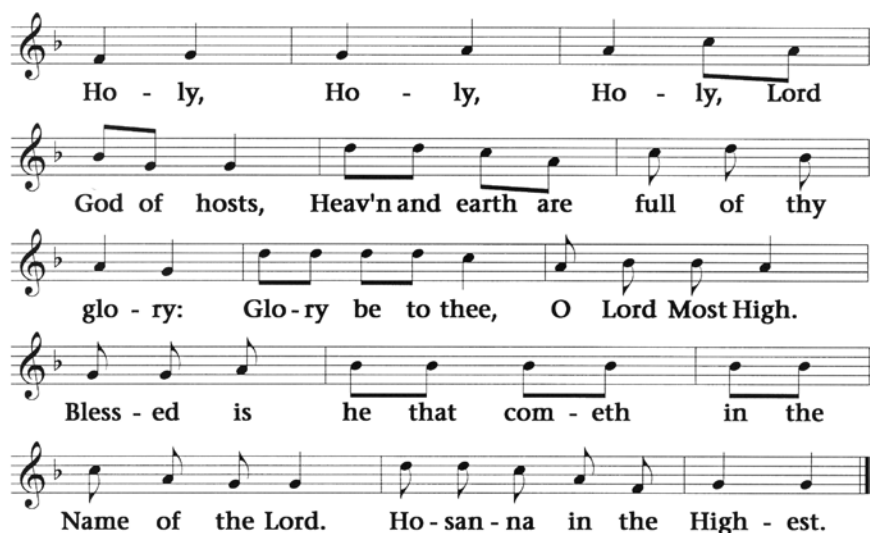
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

For with thy co-eternal Son and Holy Spirit, thou art one God, one Lord, in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Substance; and we celebrate the one and equal glory of thee, O Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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.)



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.**

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 LicensgOnline #U3219.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Then may be said

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.

AN THEM “Hymn for America”

Stephen Paulus

We have loved you for your rivers, we have loved you for your shores, every treasure you have shown us, every seed that you have sown; we have loved you for your mountains, for your prairies, for your fields, all these gifts we have been given, all these glories that we share; now we thank God for these blessings, we, your people, everywhere. Many are the stars of heaven, many are the hopes of earth; all around us worlds unfolding, all around these dreams to grow. From the moment of our rising ‘till we rest when day is done, may we tell our hearts’ own story, hearts that honor and believe, through our care of one another, for this life and land we love.

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HYMN 719 “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
 3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!
 thine al - a - bas - ter ci - ties gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,

and crown thy good with bro-ther-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.
 con - firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.
 and crown thy good with bro-ther-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.

Words: Katherine Lee Bates (1859–1929), alt.; Music: *Materna*, Samuel Augustus Ward (1848–1903).

HYMN 716“God Bless Our Native Land”

1 God bless our na - tive land; firm may she
 2 For her our prayers shall rise to God, a -

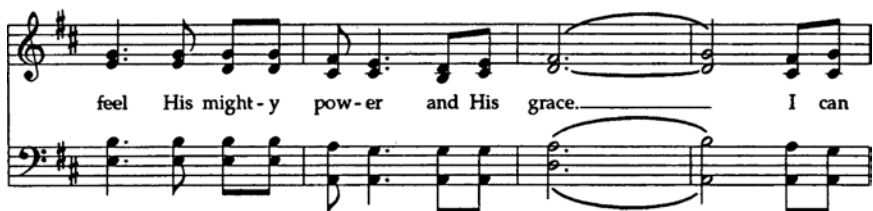
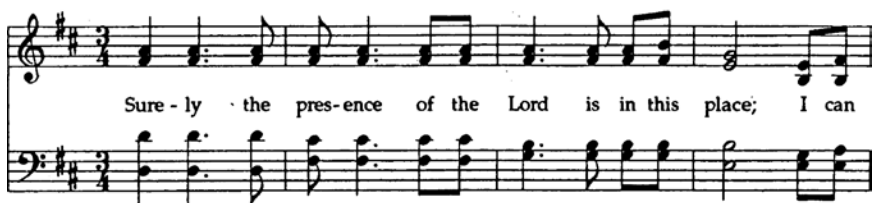
ev - er stand through storm and night: when the wild
 bove the skies; on him we wait; thou who art

tem - pests rave, ru - ler of wind and wave,
 ev - er nigh, guard - ing with watch - ful eye,

do thou our coun - try save by thy great might.
 to thee a - loud we cry, God save the state!

Words: Siegfried August Mahlmann (1771–1826); tr. Charles Timothy Brooks (1813–1883) and John Sullivan Dwight (1812–1893), alt.; Music: *America*, from *Thesaurus Musicus*, 1745.

HYMN “Surely the Presence”



Text and Music, Lanny Wolfe; © 1977 Lanny Wolfe Music, (admin. By Pathway Music, Cleveland, TN). CCLI #805314.

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 BLESSING

All stand.

HYMN 718 "God of Our Fathers"

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 past, in this free land by thee our lot is cast;
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
 way, lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 be thou our ru - ler, guard - ian, guide, and stay
 thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease,
 fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 thy bount - eous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

Words: Daniel Crane Roberts (1841–1907); Music: *National Hymn*, George William Warren (1828–1902).

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

VOLUNTARY “America”
arr. Richard Purvis

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

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In thanksgiving for the founders of our country and the birth of our nation



BIRTHS

April 1 Campbell Caleb Ward
Son of Anabelle and Ryan Ward



BAPTISMS

June 29 Ethan Alexander Coy
Frederick Stevens Franz

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

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	Marguerite Hillgers	Consuelo Saldana
Carolyn Alban	Cecilia Illeman	Caroline Searls
Buck Anderson	Marilyn Ingham	Helen and Jim Shaffer
Scotty Arnoldy	Thelma Isenhardt	Caroline Shanahan
Edith Avery	Christine Jean	Clif Shoemake
Shelly Bain	Mary and Jim Jennings	Bob Spencer
Beth Beathard	Bobby Jornayvaz	Trish St. Jean Martin
Cory Blackman	John Justice	Jim and Jan Stokes
John Boysen	Sandra "Sandy" Justice	Hillary Stonger
Kenny Brown	Mary Anne Kannard	Henry Suman
Matthews Brown	Dick Kilday	Paul Therrien
Harry Burrow	Marjorie Krajian	Annie Troung
John Canon	Rhea Latta	Christine Troung
Delonda Citrano	Bruce Michael Lee	Mary Watters
Sammy A. Citrano III	Nancy Liles	Richard "Rit" Webb
Hallie Cooley	Nicole Holford Lockney	Stephen Wedemeyer
Sam Cruse	Amanda Lodge	Marilyn Whitehurst
James Cunningham	Ryan Logan	Desyre Whittington
Gail Davis	Madelyn Markham	Ann Winters
Paul Davison	Ronnie Martin	Stacy Wood
Bobby de Sosa	Janet McDaniel	Eric Zoerb
Linda de Sosa	Barbara McMahon	Atticus
Ross Dunn	Frances Melicks	Elizabeth and Scott
Becca Earhart	Len Menefee	Henry
Stacey and John Elliott	Stuart Nixon	Julie
Mary Finucane	Deborah Oliver	Laura
Charles Flores	Andrew O'Malley	Lynne
Maria Flores	Bob Paddock	Mary Jane
Will Fogle	Jim Paddock	Roger
Susan Folk	Patty Pate	Sarah
Catherine Gonzales	Colleen Paxton	Stuart
Nancy Gore	Judy Peach	
Shea Guinn	Ophelia Pujol	
Cissy Gully	Barbara Quackenbush	
Bette Haidusek	Phyllis Reinhardt	
Cathy Haidusek	Julia Richards	
Ann Halverson	Monica Rivera	
Jean Hatton	John Davis Roady	
Mollie Hill	Maggie Rodriguez	

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

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Prayers for those on Active Military Duty in the Armed Forces:

LCDR Bradley Hoffman
Lt. Col. Wesley J. Hunnell
2nd Lt. Stephen A. Jeckovich
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
PO1 Brian Powell
Sgt. Joel Rowell
PO Evan Tomlin

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 vriviera@smec.org.

READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE OLD TESTAMENT Deuteronomy 10:17-21

The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

THE PSALM Psalm 145:1-9

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- 8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 The Lord is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.



ST. MARTIN'S WELCOMES NEW CLERGY MEMBERS

The Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden

ASSOCIATE FOR CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION



The Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden joins St. Martin's as Associate for Christian Education. He, his wife, the Rev. Emily Hylden, and their three young boys are moving from Lafayette, La., where he served as Vice-Rector at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

Jordan served churches in South Carolina and was Canon Theologian and Dean of the Stanton Center for Ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas. He received a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and pursued a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Theology from Duke University Divinity School.

The Rev. Gregory W. Cross

CURATE



The Rev. Gregory Cross joins St. Martin's as Curate. Gregory is no stranger to our Church, having served as a seminarian intern during the summer months of 2022 and 2023. He recently received a Master of Divinity degree from the Virginia Theological Seminary and graduated from Texas A&M University in 2020 with a bachelor's degree.

Gregory and his wife, Faith, who were married in June 2023, enjoy reading, watching Texas A&M sports and traveling.

Contact: Liz Gallien, Executive Assistant to the Vice-Rector
lgallien@smec.org | 713-830-4139

THEOLOGY *for* LIFE



*JESUS IS BETTER: A SIX-WEEK
OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
with the Rev. John D. Sundara*

Sundays • 10:15 – 11 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall

July 14: Jesus: Better than the Angels

Aug. 4: Jesus and the Better Covenant

July 21: Jesus: Better than Moses and Joshua

Aug. 11: Jesus and a Better Faith I

July 28: Jesus: the Better Sacrifice

Aug. 18: Jesus and a Better Faith II

Have you ever read through the Old Testament and found it complicated and confusing? Why all the blood and gore of the animal sacrifices of the high priests? Who is the mysterious Melchizedek? As Christians, why do we not have a Temple? And what does all this have to do with Jesus? Find out with this special Theology For Life series.

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

GET IN THE GAME DONATE BLOOD

**Monday, July 15
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Activity Center, Game Room

*Schedule your next appointment at
bit.ly/smecblooddrive*

Walk-ins Welcome!



**Gulf Coast Regional
Blood Center**

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

ST. MARTIN'S
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES



Chat with Amistad Children

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

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

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



St. Martin's
Episcopal Preschool

St. Martin's Playground is Getting a "Makeover!"

The Playground will be closed for improvement beginning in late July. We will update the Parish as construction progresses.

**Contact: Kellen Gray, 713-830-4140 or
kgray@smepreschool.org**

OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

SUNDAY PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. David Henning

Director of Music and Parish Organist
dhenning@smec.org

Mr. Keith Lathrom

Choral Director of the Adult Choir
klathrom@smec.org

Ms. Hannah Cen

Associate Organist
hcen@smec.org

Ms. Carole Nelson

Coordinator of Children's Music Ministries
cnelson@smec.org

Mr. Tyler (TD) Davis

Interim Director of Student Ministries
tdavis@smec.org

Mrs. Ashley Monachelli

Director of Children's Ministry
amonachelli@smec.org

Mrs. Kathy Johnson

Director of Membership
kjohnson@smec.org

Mrs. Barbara Piana

Verger and Worship Coordinator
bpiana@smec.org

ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

Vestry Executive Committee

Mr. Dan Meyer, *Senior Warden*
Mr. Ryan LaRue, *Junior Warden*
Mrs. Nancy Bynon, *Missions Chair*
Ms. Sherrie Perkins, *Treasurer*
Mr. Logan Walters, *Clerk*
Mr. Tommy Ford, *Past Senior Warden*
Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., *Parish Stewardship Chair*
Mr. Andy Harvin, *Chancellor**

Vestry Members

Mr. Scott Anderson
Mrs. Summer Craig
Mrs. Elizabeth Dukes
Mr. Will Hedges
The Hon. Edith Jones
Mr. David Leonard
Mrs. Susan McConn
Mr. Roy Nichol
Mrs. Courtney Schilling
Mr. Milton West

Associate Members

The Hon. James A. Baker, III, *Special Counsel to the Vestry**
Mr. David Harvin, *Senior Council Representative 2023-2025*
Mrs. Beth Reeves, *Senior Council Representative 2023-2025*
Ms. Samantha Hutchison, *Altar Guild President 2024-2025*
Mrs. Shelly Newton, *ECW President 2024-2025*
Mr. Perry Ruthven, *Men of St. Martin's President 2023-2025*
Mr. John Sutherland, *Usher Representative 2024-2026*

**Denotes Associate Vestry filled at the discretion of the Rector.*



The Hon. Edith Jones
Vestry Representative
Morning



Mrs. Sherrie Perkins
Vestry Representative
Evening

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ *The Head of This Church*



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



The Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden
Associate for Christian Education
jhylden@smec.org



The Rev. Gill B. Keyworth
Deacon
gkeyworth@smec.org



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



The Rev. Gregory W. Cross
Curate
gcross@smec.org

PRAYER FOR THE SEARCH FOR ST. MARTIN'S FIFTH RECTOR

Heavenly Father,

As a community of believers, we come together in prayer seeking Your guidance as St. Martin's Episcopal Church continues the search for our fifth rector. May we be blessed with Your Holy Spirit's wisdom and discernment. We especially ask that You guide the hearts and minds of the Search Committee who will be deeply involved in this choice. Lord Jesus, shepherd Your flock with tender care and love. Give us patience as we wait, trusting in Your gracious provision. Guide us, Oh Lord, as we navigate this season of change, knowing that You are with us every step of the way. Our fervent prayer is that You will be done.

With humble expectations,
Amen.

WE INVITE YOU TO
KEEP THIS BOOKLET
FOR REFERENCE.

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

SMEC.ORG

