FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 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.



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.
- To use a hearing assisted device, see one of our ushers.
- St. Martin's asks that anyone coming into a worship service not bring oversized or large backpacks.
- Please silence all cell phones when entering The Church and also refrain from texting.
 Thank you for being respectful of God and others as we spend time together in worship.





HOLY EUCHARIST

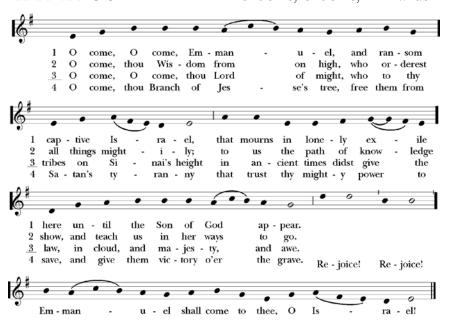
Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. is a spoken service. Musical pieces in this booklet will be skipped or replaced by spoken liturgy, as noted.

VOLUNTARY""Sleeper's Wake"

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *HYMN 56 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"



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.

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People: His mercy endureth for ever.

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.**

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSONJeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.





Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1700, tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1854, alt.; Music: Greenland, Johann Michael Haydn, 1819.

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPELLuke 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining lectionary for the day is on page 22.



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1700, tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1854, alt.; Music: Greenland, Johann Michael Haydn, 1819.

Please be seated.

We plead, O Lord, to see The day of earth's redemption, And ever be with thee! THE SERMON The Rev. R. Wesley Arning

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Lord, in thy mercy

Hear our prayer.

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

We pray for the nomination of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, Hector and Brian, our bishops; the Clergy of this Parish; in the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan; for persecuted Christians; for all bishops, priests and deacons. For Joe, our President, Donald, our President-elect, Greg, our Governor, John, 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.

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.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Minister says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

A moment of silence is observed.

Minister and People

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

Celebrant stands and says

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

THE PEACE (stand)

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

People: And with thy spirit.

Please be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 23 for classes and events.

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM"O Radiant Dawn"

James MacMillan

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Isaiah had prophesied, 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.' Amen.

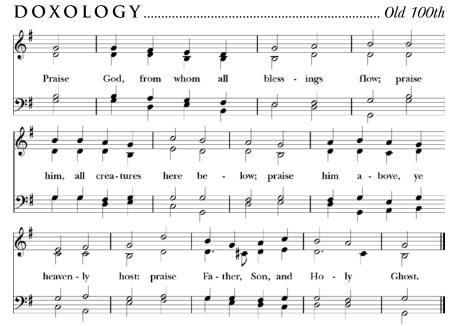
Text: Antiphon for 21 December © 2008 by Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd.

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.



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.

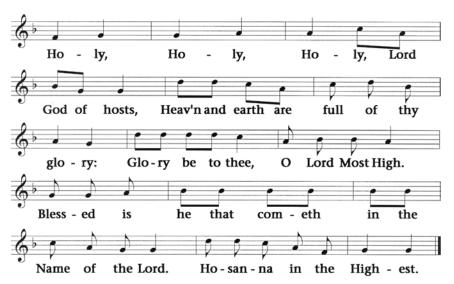
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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

(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.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

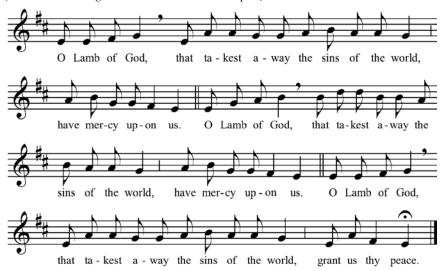
Celebrant and People

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

(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.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant and People

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

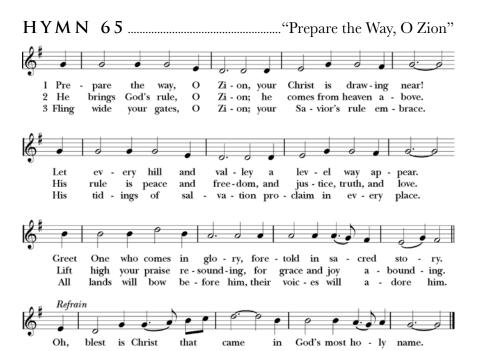
The Celebrant says the Invitation.

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

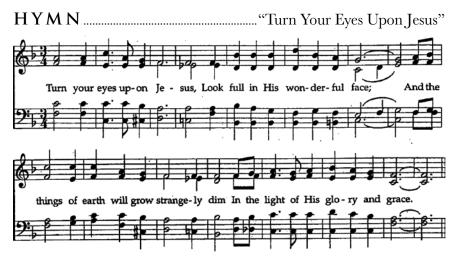
ANTHEM"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, Who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell there-in, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Text: Revelation 22, Adapted by Ruth Manz; Music: Paul Manz; Copyright ©1954 Morning Star Music Publishers. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.



Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772–1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920); Music: Bereden $v \bar{v} g f \bar{u} r Herran$, melody from Then Swenska Psalmboken, 1697; Copyright: Words: © 1982, Charles P. Price.



Text: Helen H. Lemmel; Music: Lemmel, Helen H. Lemmel, Public domain.



Text and Music: Laurie Klein; (c) 1978 by House of Mercy Music. All rights reserved, UBP. CCLI #805314.

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

Celebrant and People

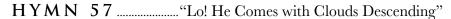
Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate 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.





 $Words: Charles \ Wesley (1707-1788); \ Music: \textit{Helmsley}, \ melody \ Thomas \ Augustine \ Arne \ (1710-1778); \ harm. \ Ralph \ Vaughan \ Williams \ (1872-1958), \ alt.$

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal. Alleluias are omitted during the season of Advent.

People: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY"Savior of the Nations, Come" Johann Sebastian Bach

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

RECOGNITIONS



BAPTISMS

Nov. 24 Mary Roberts Schultz Charles Stewart Skotnicki Claire Taylor Tassin



SYMPATHY

Nov. 19 Frank Vincent Kotar

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 Ophelia Pujol Carolyn Alban Phyllis Reinhardt Monica Rivera Harvey Altmann Helen and Jim Shaffer Edith Avery Shelly Bain Caroline Shanahan Cory Blackman Clif Shoemake Jennifer Broussard Fran Gardner Shores Gary Browning Grantland Wagner Helen Paige Buck MaeJoyce Wagner Gail Davis Margaret Watson

Mary Watters

Bobby de Sosa Stephen Wedemeyer Linda de Sosa Eric Zoerb

Charlotte Dion Dave

Ross Dunn Elizabeth and Scott

Connie Dyer Harold
Stacey and John Elliott Henry
Charles Flores Laura
Catherine Gonzales Lynne
Nancy Gore Sharon
The Rev. Alex Graham Wayne

Bette Haidusek Cathy Haidusek Nancy Haywood Wendy Hurt Clare Jan

Paul Davison

Mary and Jim Jennings

Dick Kilday Searcy Kracke Mary Tyler Labhart Tom Lamb

The Rev. Peter Larson

Bruce Michael Lee

Nancy Liles
Martha Marks
Bill Maynard
Tom McDade
Janet McDaniel
Adams McHenry

Dan Pate

Please be advised that the weeks after Easter and All Saints' Day, this list will be completely redone. To add or remove someone on the Continuing Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vrivera@smec.org.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

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

Lt. Col. Julian Benton 1LT. Tom Cadwallender 1LT. Yonatan Cadwallender 1st LCDR Casey Gainer LCDR Bradley Hoffman

LCDR Bradley Hollinal
LTC Wesley J. Hunnell
1st Lt. Stephen A. Jeckovich
Capt. Blake J. Kidd
Capt. Jack Mullen

1st Lt. Alex Mullen PFC. Parris F. Owen SrA 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 vrivera@smec.org.

OTHER WORSHIP SERVICES





9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

The Family Table service with Holy Eucharist combines contemporary worship music with traditional liturgy and is designed for families with young children.

11:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

The Riverway Contemporary Service is both Anglican and modern, offering the Holy Eucharist in a relaxed service with contemporary music.

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Holy Eucharist Services 7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. • Christ Chapel

OSL Healing Prayer Service First Wednesday of the month 5 p.m. • Parish Life Center Online at bit.ly/oslservice

READINGS FOR THE DAY

I	HE ISALM	Psaim 25:1-9
1	To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;	
	my God, I put my trust in you; *	
	let me not be humiliated,	
	nor let my enemies triumph over me.	

- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; * let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, * and teach me your paths.

THE DEALAA

- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, * for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, * for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; * remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; * therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right * and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness * to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

THE EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

THIS SUNDAY

▶ ADULTS

8+ with the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden
Discuss the lectionary readings of the day following the 8 a.m. service.
8:55 a.m. • Chapel Reception Hall

THEOLOGY FOR LIFE with the Rev. Wesley Arning and Ryan Presley "Come, Lord Jesus: The Meaning of Advent"
The Wayside Podcast hosts this series based on Advent themes.

10:15 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall

STUDENT MINISTRIES

SUNDAY GET-TOGETHERS

Students in grades 6-12 spend time in fellowship and discuss the Scriptures shared in worship.

10:15 a.m. • Student Life Center

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children through 5th grade are given a solid foundation of Biblical and theological knowledge in age-appropriate ways.

10:15 a.m. • Children's Life Center

CHILDCARE

Available during all morning services for six-weeks through three-year-olds. 8 a.m. • Children's Life Center

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



To view all our Christian education options, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/smecedu.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

DECEMBER 2-7, 2024

ALL ADULTS

Docent Tour Wednesday, 11 a.m. • The Church

The Docent Guild offers a formal tour of The Church. To schedule a group tour or tours of other Campus locations, contact the Docent Line at 713-830-4117.

St. Clare's Guild *Wednesday*, *Noon* • *Activity Center*, *Upper Hall East*St. Clare's Guild undertakes a variety of needlepoint projects in worship spaces and for outreach programs.

St. Martin's 20s & 30s *Wednesday*, 7 p.m. • *Children's Life Center* Join a community of young adults who eat, pray and read Scripture together.

Parish Choir *Thursday*, 11:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. • The Music Center, Rehearsal Hall Sing a variety of traditional music in service to the Lord and our congregation.

MEN

Men of St. Martin's *Thursday* • 7 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall
This mens' group meets for fellowship, mutual support and Bible study.

WOMEN

Christian Life Study

Join this women's Bible study and strengthen your relationship with God through the study of His word.

Evening Group Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. • Children's Life Center and via Zoom **Day Group** Thursday, 9:30 a.m. • Parish Life Center and via Zoom

STUDENTS

Life Groups Wednesday, 6 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 the meal.

EVENTS



To view all our upcoming events, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/smecevents.







TOUR A GOTHIC-STYLE CHURCH WITHOUT LEAVING HOUSTON!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 Following the 11:15 a.m. service Meet in the Narthex

St. Martin's docents offer free, public and private tours. Everyone is welcome regardless of religious affiliation. To schedule a tour, please call St. Martin's Docent Guild at 713-830-4117 and leave a contact name and number for a return call.





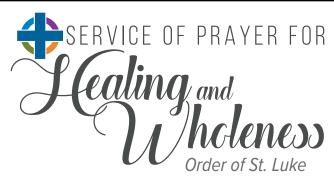




Monday, Dec. 2 | 8:30 a.m.—noon Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Parking Lot to Carpool

The Brookwood Community is delivering all 50,000 poinsettias to the Houston area and needs your help with sleeving. Share the Christmas spirit with fellow St. Martin's members.

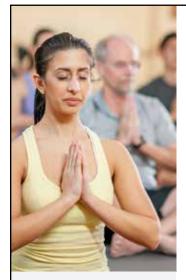
Contact Tracee Tindol at outreach@smec.org or 713-985-3811 to sign up.



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, Dec. 4 | 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.



MOST CLASSES ARE FREE!

For more information, visit bit.ly/smecactivitycenter.

ACTIVITY CENTER

RESTORATIVE YOGA

Fridays

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. | Aerobics Room

Join Angela for a slow-paced yoga class that targets the deep connective tissues and helps restore body and mind.

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



Hosted by the Episcopal Church Women of St. Martin's

Happy Birthday JESUS!

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

10 a.m. • Parish Life Center

The joys of the seasons come to life for children up to 12 to celebrate Jesus' birthday and enjoy a fun-filled celebration.

Activities include a reading of the Christmas Story, camel rides, photos with Santa, face painting, balloon art, crafts and more holiday fun.

Contact: Valerie Rivera 713-985-3817 • vrivera@smec.org





WAYNE & FRIENDS

IN CONCERT

SUNDAY, DEC. 8 7 P.M. • PARISH LIFE CENTER

Wayne Watson opens the holiday season with a gathering of talented musicians who will perform an unforgettable concert filled with traditional and modern Christmas classics. Bring the whole family for a memorable evening of fellowship!

Contact: Wayne Watson • wwatson@smec.org • 346-335-8673



Christmas Coffee

🦝 HOSTED BY THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF ST. MARTIN'S

Monday, December 9 · 11 a.m. -1 p.m.

At the home of Carrie Eickenroht

Christmas casual attire • Carpooling is highly encouraged • Valet parking will be offered

In the spirit of the season, please bring an unwrapped gift for children ages 5–17 or gift cards.

For address, please RSVP to Valerie Rivera at vrivera@smec.org or 713-985-3817.



JESUS' PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

SPONSORED BY THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

SATURDAY, DEC. 4 | 9 A.M. – NOON BAGBY PARISH HALL NEW LOCATION

St. Martin's Clergy will provide meditations on three of Jesus' parables of the Kingdom to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ anew at Christmas.

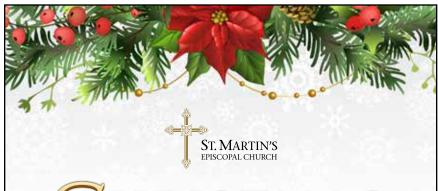
Time is allocated after each presentation for quiet prayer and reflection.

The Quiet Day will end with Noonday Prayer.



Tracee Tindol tmartin@smec.org • 713-985-3811





CHRISTMAS

AT ST. MARTIN'S

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES | Tuesday, Dec. 24

Family Table Services 9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center Holy Eucharist, family-friendly.

11 a.m.* • The Church (No Eucharist) Music and Nativity Liturgy.

Traditional Services 1, 3:30*, 6 and 8:30 p.m. • The Church Holy Eucharist; festive music by the Parish Choir, Gloria Dei Organ, brass and timpani.

*These services will be livestreamed

Riverway Contemporary Service

6 p.m. • Parish Life Center
Carols sing-along before service with Holy Eucharist.

Childcare will be provided for six-week-old infants through 3-year-olds at the 9:15 and 11 a.m. services as well as the 1, 3:30, and 6 p.m. services.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE | Wednesday, Dec. 25

11 a.m. • The Church

Holy Eucharist; traditional service with hymns, anthems and the Parish Choir.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS SERVICES | Sunday, Dec. 29

8, 9 and 11:15 a.m. • The Church

9:15 a.m. Family Table • Parish Life Center

11:15 a.m. Riverway • Parish Life Center

Holy Eucharist; no evening service due to New Year's holiday.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are visiting today, please fill out a Welcome Card from the pew rack to place in the offering plate or complete it online by scanning the QR code or visiting **bit.ly/smecvisitors**. Please introduce yourself to one of



our Clergy and we will be in touch to let you know more about our Parish Family.

Seeking membership in a parish is a very important step and it is our goal to support your understanding of our Parish, its ministries and your place in the life of St. Martin's. Our membership process begins by attending one of our quarterly Membership 101 classes.

Contact: Kathy Johnson • 713-985-3834 • kjohnson@smec.org

ST. MARTIN'S IS HERE FOR YOU

For general questions, contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040 during business hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday–Friday).

For pastoral concerns during business hours, contact 713-985-3817 or pastoralcare@smec.org.

For pastoral emergencies after hours and weekends, call 713-621-3040 and follow the prompts to reach the priest on call.

For prayer requests, contact the prayer request line at 713-830-4124 or Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vrivera@smec.org.

For death notifications and funerals, contact Cyndy Ensign at 713-985-3808 or censign@smec.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.



Mr. Will Hedges
Vestry Representative
Morning



Mr. Dan MeyerVestry Representative
Evening

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ The Head of This Church



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 lneilson@smec.org



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



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



The Rev. Sharron L. CoxAssociate 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. Gill B. KeyworthDeacon
gkeyworth@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 Your will be done.

With humble expectations, we pray this prayer in Jesus name, who we joyfully serve and love. Amen.

WE INVITE YOU TO KEEP THIS BOOKLET FOR REFERENCE.

