

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8, 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.*
 - *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.*



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

HOLY EUCHARIST

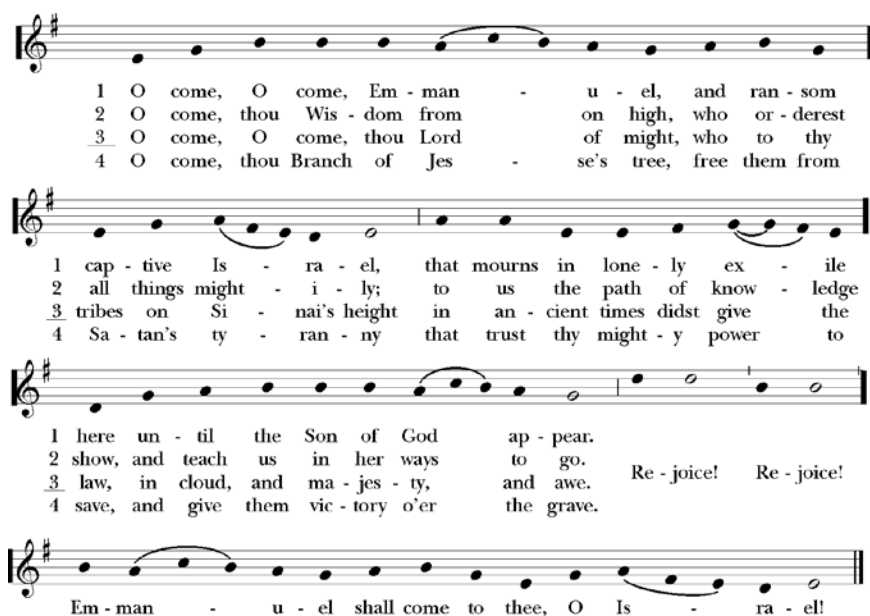
Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. is a spoken service. Musical pieces in this booklet will be skipped or replaced by spoken liturgy, as noted.

VOLUNTARY“Savior of the Nations, Come” 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”



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

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

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. Re - joice! Re - joice!
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

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.

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.)

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy
up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSON Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

HYMN 76 (vs. 1-3).....“On Jordan’s Bank”

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676–1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944), after John Chandler (1806–1876); alt.; Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823–1889), alt.

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining lectionary for the day is on pages 21-22.

HYMN 76 (vs. 4-5).....“On Jordan’s Bank”

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
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1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
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Please be seated.

THE SERMONThe Rev. John D. Sundara

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 thee 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, 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.**

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*Messiah*, “And the Glory of the Lord”
George F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together, For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

Text: Isaiah 40:5.

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*

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano/Alto and Bass/Tenor) in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is a simple, hymn-like tune. The lyrics are in French and English.

French lyrics (top line):
 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.

English lyrics (bottom line):
 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.**

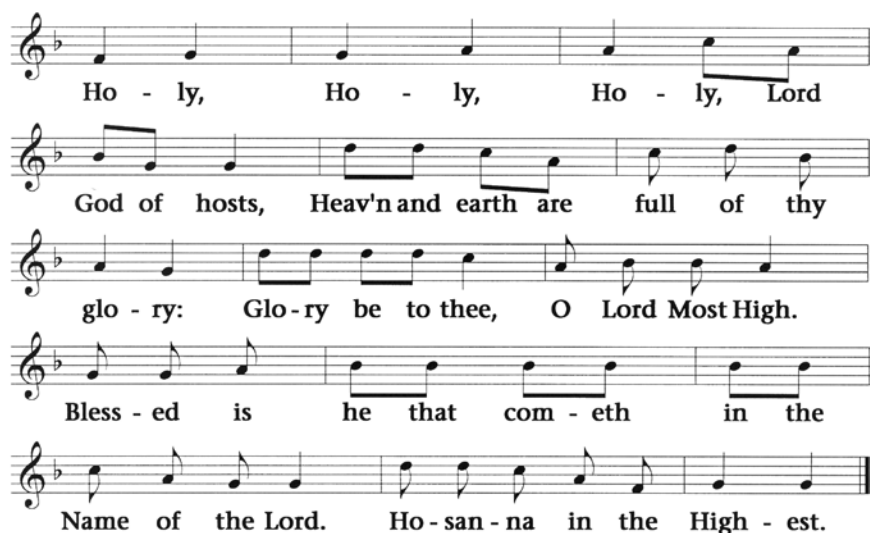
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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

(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.)

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 by the Celebrant and People

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.

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 “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” arr. Keith Lathrom

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, saith our God; O comfort those who sit in darkness mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over. Hark, the voice that crieth in the desert far and near, calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way; let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him. Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain; O let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now o’er earth is shed abroad; and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

Text: Isaiah 40:1-5; vers. Johann G. Locarius, (1671), tr. Catherine Winkworth, (1863), alt. Music: *Genevan Psalm 42*, melody by Louis Bourgeois, 1551. Setting by Keith Lathrom. © 2023. All rights reserved

HYMN “As the Deer”



As the deer pant-eth for the wa-ter, so my
You're my friend and you are my broth-er ev-en
I want you more than gold or sil-ver, on-ly

soul long-eth af-ter you. You a-lone are my heart's de-sire— and I
though you— are a King. I love you more than an-y oth-er, so much
you can— sat-is-fy. You a-lone are the real joy-giv-er and the

long to wor-ship you. You a-lone are my strength, my shield; To
more than an-y-thing.
ap-ple of my eye.

you a-lone may my spir-it yield.

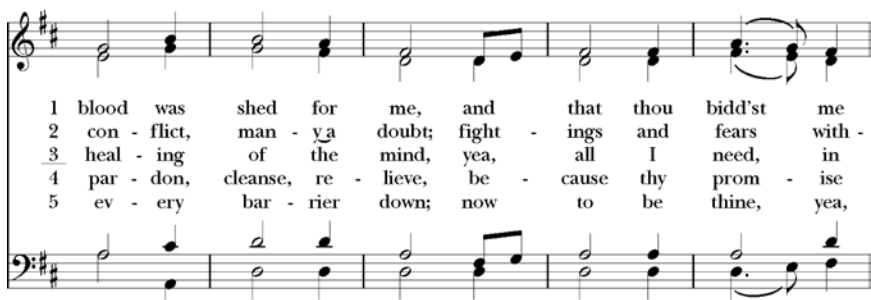
You a-lone are my heart's de-sire,— and I long to wor-ship you.

Words and Music: Martin Nystrom; CCLI Song #1431; © 1984 Maranatha Praise, Inc.; All rights Reserved. CCLI #805314.

HYMN 693 “Just As I Am”



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya
 * 3 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es,
 4 Just as I am: thou wilt re - ceive; wilt wel - come,
 5 Just as I am, thy love un - known has bro - ken



1 blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me
 2 con - flict, man - ya doubt; fight - ings and fears with -
 3 heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need, in
 4 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve, be - cause thy prom - ise
 5 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,



1 come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 2 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 3 thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 4 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 5 thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am, of thy great love
 the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
 here for a season, then above:
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Words: Charlotte Elliott (1789–1871); Music: *Woodworth*, William Batchelder Bradbury (1816–1868).

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 (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 542 “Christ is the World’s True Light”

1 Christ is the world's true Light, its Cap-tain of sal - va - tion,
 2 In Christ all rac - es meet, their an-cient feuds for - get - ting,
 3 One Lord, in one great Name u - nite us all who own thee;

the Day - star clear and bright of ev - ery race and na - tion;
 the whole round world com - plete, from sun-rise to its set - ting;
 cast out our pride and shame that hin-der to en - throne thee;

new life, new hope a - wakes, for all who own his sway;
 when Christ is throned as Lord all shall for - sake their fear,
 the world has wait - ed long, has tra - vailed long in pain;

free - dom her bond - age breaks, and night is turned to day.
 to plough-share beat the sword, to prun - ing - hook the spear.
 to heal its an - cient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

Words: George Wallace Briggs (1875–1959), alt.; Music: *St. Joan*, Percy E. B. Collier (b. 1895); Copyright: Words: By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY “In Thee is Gladness”
Johann Sebastian Bach

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

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In memory of Chase Gardner
by Anne and Jim Gardner and family

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	Janet McDaniel
Carolyn Alban	Patricia McDonald
Harvey Altmann	Adams McHenry
Edith Avery	Megan Palsa
Shelly Bain	Dan Pate
Cory Blackman	Ophelia Pujol
Jennifer Broussard	Phyllis Reinhardt
Gary Browning	Monica Rivera
Helen Paige Buck	Helen and Jim Shaffer
Gail Davis	Caroline Shanahan
Paul Davison	Clif Shoemake
Bobby de Sosa	Fran Gardner Shores
Linda de Sosa	Grantland Wagner
Charlotte Dion	MaeJoyce Wagner
Ross Dunn	Margaret Watson
Connie Dyer	Mary Watters
Stacey and John Elliott	Stephen Wedemeyer
Charles Flores	Eric Zoerb
Catherine Gonzales	Dave
Nancy Gore	Elizabeth and Scott
The Rev. Alex Graham	Harold
Shea Guinn	Henry
Bette Haidusek	Laura
Cassidy Haidusek	Lynne
Cathy Haidusek	Sharon
Nancy Haywood	Wayne
Wendy Hurt	
Clare Jan	
Mary and Jim Jennings	
Dick Kilday	
Searcy Kracke	
Mary Tyler Labhart	
Tom Lamb	
The Rev. Peter Larson	
Bruce Michael Lee	
Nancy Liles	
Patrick Maehs	
Martha Marks	
Bill Maynard	
Tom McDade	

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 vriviera@smec.org.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

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

Lt. Col. Julian Benton	1st Lt. Alex Mullen
1LT. Tom Cadwallender	PFC. Parris F. Owen
1LT. Yonatan Cadwallender	SrA James W. Peoples
1st LCDR Casey Gainer	Lt. Paul Piana
LCDR Bradley Hoffman	Lt. Col. Thomas C. Plant
LTC Wesley J. Hunnell	PO1 Brian Powell
1st Lt. Stephen A. Jeckovich	Sgt. Joel Rowell
Capt. Blake J. Kidd	PO Evan Tomlin
Capt. Jack Mullen	

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.

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

THE RESPONSE Canticle 16, Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
 he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
 born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
 from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
 and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
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.

READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE EPISTLEPhilippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

THIS SUNDAY

✚ ADULTS

8+

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

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER with the Rev. Sharron Cox

Spend a morning in silent prayer and sharing as we grow to learn to love as God loves.

10:15 a.m. • Levenson Pastoral Care Center, Bride’s Parlor

✚ 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

✚ OUTREACH MINISTRIES

EL SALVADOR AND AMISTAD MEETING

Learn about the 2025 missions trips to El Salvador and Bolivia.

10:15 a.m. • Activity Center Family Room

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



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

THIS SUNDAY

✦ 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 9-14, 2024

ALL ADULTS

Saintly Stitchers *Monday, 10 a.m. • Activity Center, Upper Hall East*
Saintly Stitchers fill St. Martin's with pew kneelers and other gifts for worship spaces.

Prayer Shawl Ministry *Tuesday, 9 a.m. • Activity Center, Family Room*
Knit and crochet shawls to be released for those in need of prayer.

Blanket Ladies *Wednesday, 10 a.m. • Activity Center, Family Room*
Make receiving blankets for newborn infants at local charity hospitals.

OSL Study Group *Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. • Children's Life Center and via Zoom*
Learn and grow in the practice of prayer for healing.

MEN

Dads' Bible Study *Thursday, 8 a.m. • Welcome Center*
Join dads with children of all ages for coffee, fellowship 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*

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**.*



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

All women members of St. Martin's are invited to a

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 vriviera@smec.org or 713-985-3817.

ST. MARTIN'S
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES

CHURCH
IN THE
FIELD

Church in the Field

Tuesday, Dec. 10 | 6-9 p.m.

Meet in St. Martin's parking lot

Church in the Field ministers to the homeless in downtown Houston by serving a meal, serving as prayer partners and providing praise music for the worship service once a month. Volunteers, age 18 and older, carpool to the service. **Sign up to provide desserts at bit.ly/citfdesserts or scan QR code.**

To sign up, contact Tracee Tindol at 713-985-3811 or outreach@smec.org.



HHCI CARES

FREE LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAM

Navigating Grief & Stress During the Winter Holidays (and beyond)

December 11, 2024 @ 12 PM CT

Presented by



HHCI CEO
Matthew S. Stanford,
PHD



HHCI CEO
Madeline Stiers,
LCSW-S, PhD



HHCI CARES Director
Peggy Determeyer,
PHD, MDiv, MBA, BCC, HEC-C



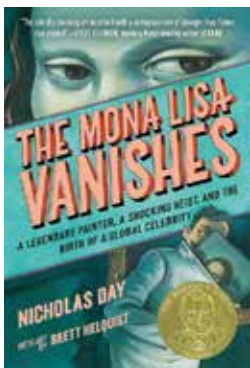
HHCI CARES
Community Aging Specialist
Rabbi Seth Stander, DO

For more information, contact Peggy Determeyer at pdetermeyer@hhci.org
or 346-335-8623

**Available in-person & online
Register at bit.ly/hhci-dec-2024**



DAY GROUP



1–2:30 p.m. | Wednesday, Dec. 11
Children's Life Center, Room 132 and
Via Zoom | bit.ly/faithinlitdayzoom

While operating within the framework of Christian theology, Faith in Literature seeks to ascertain in our reading how all good literature, if even by its omission, deals with and reflects themes of faith.

This month, we discuss "The Mona Lisa Vanishes"
by Nicholas Day.

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

ADVENT QUIET DAY

JESUS' PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

SPONSORED BY THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING®

SATURDAY, DEC. 14 | 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





HOUSTON BOYCHOIR

**SATURDAY, DEC. 14
4 P.M. • THE CHURCH**

Celebrate the holiday season with the Houston Boychoir. Listen to traditional Christmas music from three choirs that make up the group: the precious Preparatory Choir, the delightful Chamber Choir and the amazing Olde Boys.



Contact: Carole Nelson
cnelson@smec.org • 346-335-8677



A Festival of **LESSONS & CAROLS**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Lessons and Carols develops the loving purpose of God from the Creation to the Incarnation through Scripture and music. This Advent tradition is a celebration for the entire family!

FAMILY TABLE

9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

11:15 a.m. • The Church

RIVERWAY

11:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center



FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY & OUTREACH PROJECT

Sunday, Dec. 15

10:15 a.m. • Children's Life Center

Join us immediately following Family Table Lessons and Carols for a reception for children and parents. We will also prepare shoe boxes for the Seafarers outreach project.

Contact: Ashley Monachelli
amonachelli@smec.org • 713-985-3816



Taizé

PRAYER SERVICE

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

5 p.m. • Christ Chapel

Taizé Prayer is a quiet and meditative time of sung prayer, listening and quiet reflection based upon the style of worship of the Taizé Community in France which has drawn hundreds of thousands of visitors for over half a century.

Come and join us whether you are drawn to silence or just in need of quiet or seeking time of prayer with others.

Contact: Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam • relhakam@smec.org • 713-830-4146

Christmas Crash

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

5 – 8 p.m. • Student Life Center

Admission is one dozen cookies, which will be donated to ReVision, a program for Houston at-risk youth.

Middle and high school students are encouraged to bring a friend for a fantastic night of games, contests, dinner, treats and prizes. Wear a tacky Christmas sweater, reindeer antlers or a festive Christmas outfit. There will be plenty of fun, including our traditional white elephant gift exchange!

Contact: Florence Ritchie • fritchier@smec.org • 713-985-3843

Get in the **HOLIDAY SPIRIT** DONATE BLOOD!

Monday, Dec. 16

9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Activity Center, Game Room



Visit bit.ly/smecblooddrive to
book your appointment today!



Receive a holiday stocking stuffer as a token to helping patients in our local hospitals! (while supplies last)



**Gulf Coast Regional
Blood Center**

Contact: Victoria Wilson
events@smec.org • 713-985-3838



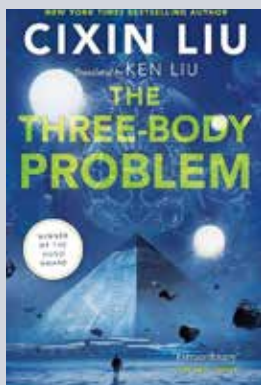
EVENING GROUP

Tuesday, Dec. 17 | 7-8:30 p.m.
Children's Life Center, Room 109 and
Via Zoom | bit.ly/faithinliteveningzoom

While operating within the framework of Christian theology, Faith in Literature seeks to ascertain in our reading how all good literature, if even by its omission, deals with and reflects themes of faith.

This month, we discuss "Three Body Problem" by Cixin Liu.

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



YEAR-END GIVING

The Internal Revenue Service requires that, in order to be tax deductible in 2024, 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 **Tuesday, Dec. 31**; this includes any payment to your 2024 pledge, prepayment of your 2025 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.



Debbie Hutchison
dhutchison@smec.org
713-985-3803



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 the 6:30 p.m. 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 Christmas holidays.



FEAST OF LIGHTS

ACOLYTE DINNER CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, JAN. 5 • 4:30 P.M. • BAGBY PARISH HALL

After the event, all acolytes will walk to The Church to prepare for the Feast of Lights service.

Acolytes who serve in Family Table and The Church and their families are invited to attend a dinner in recognition of their contributions to enhancing our worship services. We will celebrate our graduating seniors and spring acolyte promotions.

All who plan to attend the special event are requested to sign up at bit.ly/acolytedinner.

Contact: Florence Ritchie • fritchier@smec.org • 713-985-3843

A Change of Heart



Every woman has at least one thing in common with her mother-in-law: both love the same man. Women are invited to this study group focused on the mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationship.

Wednesdays | Jan. 8 – Feb. 26
Student Life Center, Upstairs Lounge

Each class is limited to the first 20 who register.

Registration details for both Morning and Afternoon Sessions can be found at bit.ly/smecachangeofheart

Contact: Graham Neuhaus • geneuhaus@aol.com

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 vriviera@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. David Leonard
Vestry Representative
Morning



The Hon. Edith Jones
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, we pray this prayer in Jesus name, who we joyfully serve and love. Amen.

WE INVITE YOU TO
KEEP THIS BOOKLET
FOR REFERENCE.

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

SMEC.ORG

