

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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*December 29, 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

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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 ..... “O Come All Ye Faithful”

Eric Thiman

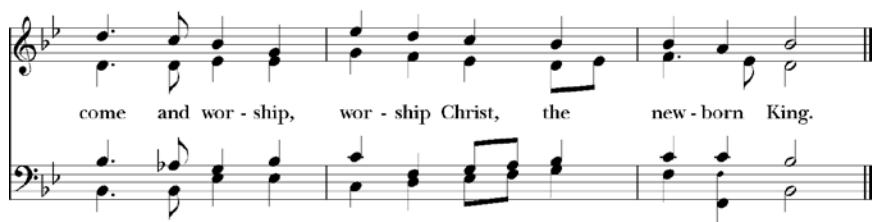
*The Celebrant greets the People. Following the greeting, all stand.*

## \*HYMN 93 ..... “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;  
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

*Refrain*  
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
yon - der shines the in - fant Light:  
ye have seen his na - tal star: come and wor - ship,  
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:



Words: James Montgomery (1771–1854), alt.; Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813–1879).

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.**

## HYMN AT THE GLORIA *(said at 8 a.m.; sung at 9 and 11:15 a.m.)*

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813–1882), alt.; Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958); Copyright: Words: By permission of Fleming H. Revell Company.

## 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, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE OLD TESTAMENT ..... Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
    my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
    he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
    and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
    and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
    to spring up before all the nations.  
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
    and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
    and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
    and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
    that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
    and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader:    The Word of the Lord.

**People:    Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

# HYMN 79 ..... “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893); Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831–1908).

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

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

## THE GOSPEL .....John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The remaining readings for the day are on page 24.*



## HYMN 79 ..... “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893); Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831–1908).

*Please be seated.*

## THE SERMON ..... “Be A Light”

*The Rev. Gill B. Keyworth*

# 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 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; for our Search Committee and the fifth Rector; in the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, for the Episcopal Church; for all bishops, priests and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of thy Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for Joe, our President, Donald, our President-elect, 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*

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thine only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **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.**

*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.*

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please see page 25 for classes and events.*

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### THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM ..... “Joy to the World”

John Rutter

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King; Let ev’ry heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, Rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.

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### 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 ..... *Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise him all crea - tures here be -

low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a -

bove ye heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*Refrain*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Thomas Ken (1637-1711); Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623; adapt. Ralph Vaughan William (1872-1958).

## 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 give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

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 and 11:15 a.m.)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880–1968); Copyright: By permission of Oxford University Press.

### *The Celebrant continues (kneel)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.*

*(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 ..... *St. Louis*

*Cantor sings*

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

*Congregation sings*

**No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,**

**Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

*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 ..... “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Walford Davies

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by: Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still. The dear Christ enters in. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today! We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

© The Trustees of the late Sir Walford Davies. The Royal School of Church Music. Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks; Music: Walford Davies.

# HYMN 105 ..... “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
 3 “Fear not, then,” said the an - gel, “Let noth - ing you af - fright;  
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,  
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same;  
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.  
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might.”  
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Words: *London Carol*; Music: *God Rest You Merry*, Melody, *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850.


# HYMN 87 ..... “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”



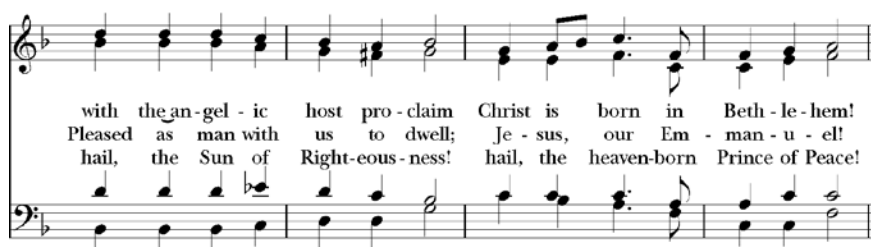
1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right-eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*



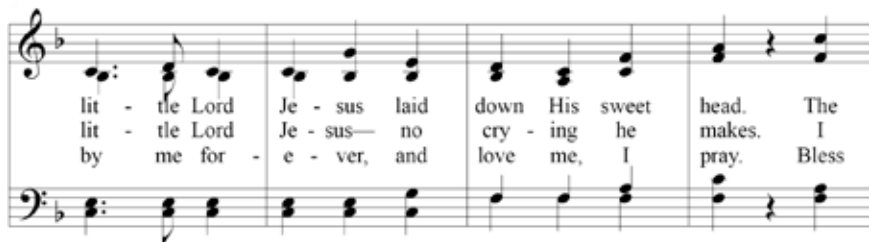
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt.; Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831–1915).

# HYMN ..... “Away in a Manger”



1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The  
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing; the Ba - by a - wakes, But  
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay Close



lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The  
 lit - tle Lord Je - sus— no cry - ing he makes. I  
 by me for - e - ver, and love me, I pray. Bless



stars in the sky— looked down where He lay; The  
 love Thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky, And  
 all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care, And



lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.  
 stay by my side un - til mor - ning is nigh.  
 fit us for hea - ven, to live with Thee there.

Text: Anon. (v. 1-2 Kirkpatrick, 1885; vs. 3 Charles H. Gabriel, 1892); Music: *Mueller*; arr. John Weaver.

*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 100 ..... "Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 #3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: *Antioch*, G.F. Händel.

# THE DISMISSAL

*A Minister says the dismissal*

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

**VOLUNTARY** ..... “Joy to the World”  
David Cherwein

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

## RECOGNITIONS

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### FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In thanksgiving for our daughter, Nicole on her birthday  
by her loving parents, Amryl and David



### BIRTHS

Dec. 19 Mary Kelley Adkins  
Daughter of Ashley and John Adkins, Jr.  
Granddaughter of Cynthia and John Adkins, Sr.



### SYMPATHY

June 25 Patricia Ann Hughs Burke  
Dec. 6 Mildred D. Knapp  
Dec. 14 Campbell Arthur Griffin, Jr.

To mark any occasion with altar flower dedications, visit [bit.ly/smecaltarflowers](http://bit.ly/smecaltarflowers) or  
contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam at [relhakam@smec.org](mailto:relhakam@smec.org).

# CONTINUING PRAYERS

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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:

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

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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](mailto:vriviera@smec.org).



## CONTINUING PRAYERS

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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	

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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](mailto:vriviera@smec.org).

## OTHER WORSHIP SERVICES

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 *family table*

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.

 RIVERWAY

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](https://bit.ly/oslservice)

# READINGS FOR THE DAY

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## THE PSALM ..... Psalm 147:13-21

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!

## THE EPISTLE ..... Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

# THIS SUNDAY

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Sunday school for adults, youth and children and the 6 p.m. service will not be offered today in observance of the Christmas holidays.

## ✚ CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### 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/smeceedu**.*

# THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

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DECEMBER 30, 2024-JANUARY 4, 2025

St. Martin's Campus will close at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 31 and will remain closed through Wednesday, Jan. 1 in observance of the New Year's holiday.

## ALL ADULTS

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.

## EVENTS



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

## PRACTICING OUR BAPTISMAL RESPONSIBILITY

Our baptismal responsibility is a commitment to serve God and participate at St. Martin's through various actions. Being generous with what we have received acknowledges God's generosity to us and is an integral part of our spiritual growth.



Make a financial commitment that helps St. Martin's plan.

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Contact Ashley Pratka: [apratka@smec.org](mailto:apratka@smec.org) | 346-335-8658

### PLEDGE TODAY

Scan this QR Code to make  
your 2025 pledge today - Online!



**WE**  
*believe*



# RIVERWAY

## *Celebration Sunday!*

Celebrate December Birthdays and Anniversaries  
with Riverway.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 29**

**Parish Life Center Narthex**

*Following the 11:15 a.m. services*

We invite everyone who has had a recent birthday or anniversary to join us in acknowledgement of your special day, and share a dessert or breakfast item with us. Everyone is welcome!

Contact: Amanda DeViney • 713-830-4110 • [adeviney@smec.org](mailto:adeviney@smec.org)

# 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.



ST. MARTIN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

## *The Order of the Daughters of the King*



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

### **GUEST SPEAKER: POLLY DAWSON**

St. Martin's Parishioner Polly Dawson will speak about the importance of prayer. She has been involved in Christian Life Study, Church in the Field and the Global Prayer Group.

Contact: Tracee Tindol • [tmartin@smec.org](mailto:tmartin@smec.org) • 713-985-3811

GUEST PREACHER AND TEACHER

The Rt. Rev.

**JOSIAH**

**IDOWU-FEARON**

SUNDAY, JAN. 5

9 AND 11:15 A.M. • THE CHURCH

10:15 A.M. • BAGBY PARISH HALL



The Rt. Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon is the retired Secretary General of the Anglican Communion and is currently Bishop-in-Residence at St. John the Divine in Houston.

Bishop Idowu-Fearon will preach during the 9 and 11:15 a.m. traditional services, and teach at the new Theology for Life series, "Frequently Asked Questions."



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

## THEOLOGY *for* LIFE

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

**Sundays, Jan. 5–Feb. 23**  
10:15–11 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall

Have you ever wondered about some of the things we do here? Have you ever gotten hard questions from non-believing friends or family that you don't quite know how to answer? In this series, we hope to give the best answers we can to your good questions, always grounded in God's holy Word.

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

*An exciting lineup of exceptional guests and friends of St. Martin's will lead this series.*

- JAN. 5** What is the Anglican Communion?  
*Led by Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Ph.D.*
- JAN. 12** Why do we baptize babies?  
*Led by the Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson, Jr.*
- JAN. 19** How can we believe the Bible is true?  
*Led by Dr. Lynn Cohick*
- JAN. 26** Annual Parish Meeting – No Sunday School
- FEB. 2** How can we share our faith?  
*Led by Cn. Carrie Boren Headington*
- FEB. 9** What do we believe about Communion?  
*Led by the Rt. Rev. Mike Hill*
- FEB. 16** What happens when we die?  
*Led by the Rt. Rev. Mike Hill*
- FEB. 23** How are we saved?  
*Led by the Rev. Dr. David Peterson*

ST. MARTIN'S  
**OUTREACH**  
MINISTRIES



## Sole Hope

**Sunday, Jan. 5 | 10:15 a.m.**

**Activity Center Gym**

Make a global impact by cutting out shoe patterns from old jeans for Sole Hope. These shoe uppers will become size 4 shoes for barefoot Ugandan kids. The shoes will protect the children from painful parasites called jiggers. No special sewing or cobbling skills required.

**Contact: Tracee Tindol • [outreach@smec.org](mailto:outreach@smec.org) • 713-985-3811**



## TOUR A GOTHIC-STYLE CHURCH WITHOUT LEAVING HOUSTON!

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5**

**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.





# FEAST OF LIGHTS

## ACOLYTE DINNER CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, JAN. 5 • 4 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](http://bit.ly/acolytedinner).

**Contact:** Florence Ritchie • [fritchier@smec.org](mailto:fritchier@smec.org) • 713-985-3843



# FEAST OF LIGHTS

SUNDAY, JAN. 5  
6 P.M. • THE CHURCH

This beautiful service takes the light of Christ into the world, literally with our actions and symbolically through candles.

During the service, acolytes will be commissioned and recognized for their contributions to enhancing services and helping to glorify God.



## MEMBERSHIP

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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](http://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](mailto:kjohnson@smec.org)

## ST. MARTIN'S IS HERE FOR YOU

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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](mailto: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](mailto:vriviera@smec.org).

For death notifications and funerals, contact Cyndy Ensign at 713-985-3808 or [censign@smec.org](mailto:censign@smec.org).

# OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

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## 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

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## 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. Dan Meyer**

*Vestry Representative*

# OUR CLERGY

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## **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

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## **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.

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

SMEC.ORG

